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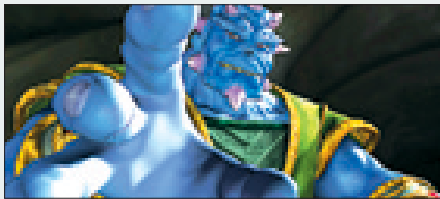
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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Confidence and
vigor in Vision
Beijing.
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CGI - popping! China's
first all computerized
animated movie.
Page 12



The cream of Beijing's ices.
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Right to hunt wild animals up for auction

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Plot to bomb UK-US flights foiled



Armed police keep watch as people wait to pass through security at Manchester Airport after increased safety measures were put into place across the UK, yesterday.

British police said yesterday they had foiled a plot to blow up planes to the United States in mid-air, putting the nation on its maximum terror alert and snarling air traffic around the world.

Police said the plot, which involved hiding explosive devices in passenger hand baggage, was "an attempt to commit mass murder on an unimaginable scale" and that they had arrested 21 people.

The US Department of Homeland Security said it had raised the threat level for commercial flights from Britain to the United States to the highest state, "Severe, or red." Security was ordered to be tightened at British airports, where departing passengers were not allowed hand baggage except articles placed in transparent bags.

(AFP)

Blast off called off for 'space funeral'

By Huang Daohen

Beijing funeral management authorities have rejected an application to provide 'space funerals' to the public. The scheme was proposed by a local business called 'Beijing Great Wall Chinese Memorial Hall'.

The 'space funeral' would involve

launching a special container containing the ashes of the deceased into outer space, where their final resting place will be on an astral body other than the Earth. The company started offering this service more than one year ago. Mr Shun, a manager at the company, said they offered the ser-

vice in collaboration with Houston Space Services, a US business who were the first to offer burial in space. To date, two Beijing residents have shown an interest in blasting their relatives' remains into the dark void between the worlds.

Beijing funeral management office

said they rejected the application to provide the service because there are no laws covering 'space funerals' and thus the office cannot rule on the matter. and also because the company really only offers disposal of ashes rather than a full funeral service, either in space or closer to home.

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Right to hunt wild animals up for auction

By Annie Wei

This Sunday will see China hold its first auction of wild-animal hunting rights in Chengdu. The State Forestry Administration (SFA) has confirmed that the auction will take place, and says money raised will be used to fund animal conservation.

Zhao Xuemin, SFA vice-director, speaking at a forestry development conference held in Chengdu in June, said that overpopulation of certain wild species has affected local ecosystems. Zhao said hunting could help

alleviate this problem, especially in Shaanxi, Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan provinces and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

China Adventure Travel and China Women Travel, two travel agencies approved to offer hunting trips, say they have started organizing such trips to western China.

An executive from China Adventure Travel, who refused to give his name, said that hunting trips like these have been going on for more than 20 years, and he felt their company should bid for the newly available hunting

rights. He said these hunts would likely only appeal to foreigners, as few Chinese would pay so much money to hunt legally.

In the past, hunting in China has required approval from the authorities on a trip-by-trip basis. The upcoming auction will sell off the rights to arrange hunts of set quotas of animals from approved species.

Prices for hunting different species were reported to be US\$10,000 to shoot an argali (a breed of large wild sheep), US\$2,500 to kill a blue sheep, and US\$6,000 for

an elk, whilst slaughtering a wild yak will set you back as much as US\$40,000. Money raised from the legal hunting over and above costs will be used to fund animal conservation efforts.

Zhao of the SFA said that the government would continue to strictly control hunting. The numbers and types of animals that can be hunted are limited, and hunting guns need to be registered with police. Legal hunting trips will have supervisors on site and no illegal hunting will be tolerated.

Foreign company headquarters clustering in the capital

By Jiang Xubo

A total of 35 international foreign companies, including IBM, Motorola, and Toyota, have located their regional headquarters in the capital, according to a report on headquarter economy issued this week by the Beijing Bureau of Statistics.

In addition, 185 of the *Fortune* Global 500 have invested in the city. Seven of them have set up their regional headquarters in Beijing and 293 more companies established offices here.

The manufacturing industry, commercial services and the information industry have absorbed most of the foreign investment, according to the report.

Most of the foreign companies, mainly coming from the EU, Japan and the US, have clustered on the Financial Street in the Western District, the Central Business District in Chaoyang District and Zhongguancun Science Park, the report says.

Imperial Ancestral Temple closed for renovation

By Jiang Xubo

The main shrines of the Imperial Ancestral Temple, used as the Beijing Working People's Culture Palace (BWPCP) since 1950, have been closed for a renovation project scheduled to last until next April.

"The full-scale protective renovation project aims to maintain this cultural heritage in its traditional style and to secure an increase of its service life. One of the major tasks is to replace all concrete blocks paving the ground with traditional gray bricks," said Xu Wei, deputy director of the BWPCP.

The municipal government will pay the project's price tag of some 15 million yuan (US\$1.88 million).

Tiles on the roof and stone aisles have become fragile, and the color paintings have faded and cracked due to rain erosion and lack of maintenance.

Other tourist attractions temporarily closed for renovation projects are:

The Long Corridor and the Pagoda of Buddha's Fragrance in the Summer Palace (closed until this October), The Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Imperial Palace (closed throughout the end of the next year), The Long Corridor in Beihai Park (closed until the end of this year),

The Echo Wall in the Temple of Heaven (closed until this November), and the Hall of Abstinence (closed until next July)

Emergency telephones fail at Badaling Great Wall

By Gan Tian

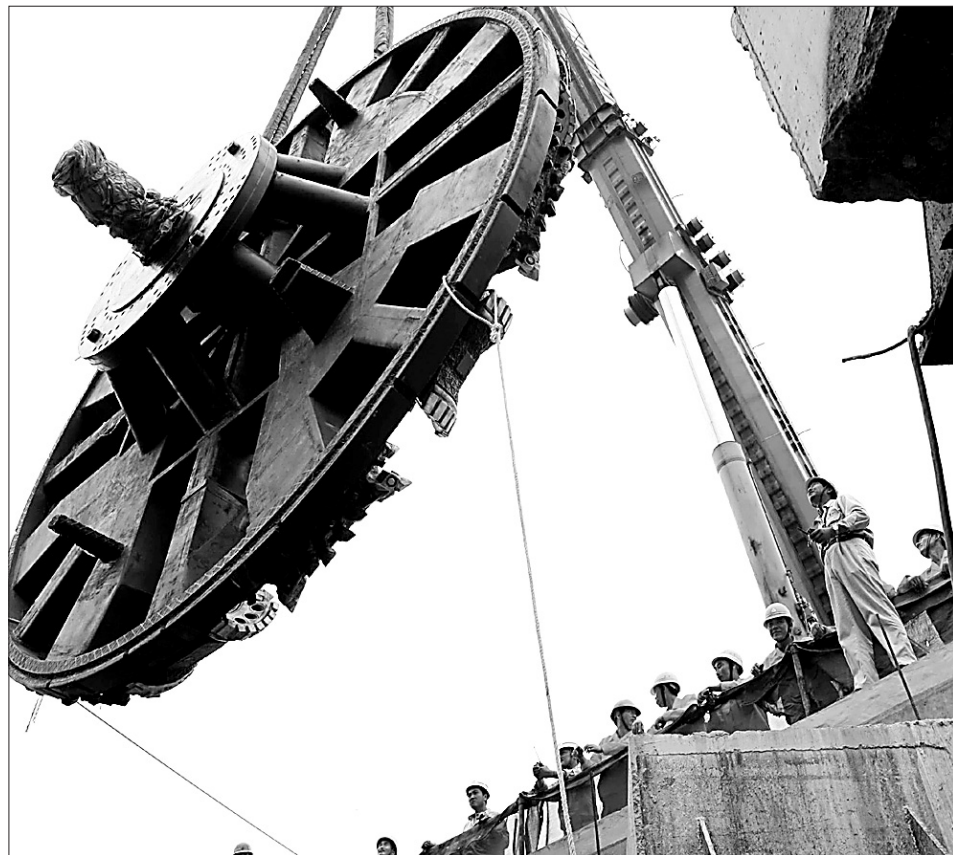
A Mr Wang was visiting the Badaling section of the Great Wall when he saw a boy fall from steps. Mr. Wang immediately attempted to call for help from an emergency telephone nearby, only to hear a recording saying that service was 'not available'.

Attempts to use other phones also failed to get through to assistance. Badaling Great Wall office explained on Wednesday that all the emergency telephones in the area are broken due to lack of care and repairs.

"I saw a child climbing a beacon tower. But he slipped and fell down from the stairs," Mr Wang said on Wednesday, "There are no staff around there, so I tried the emergency telephone, but it didn't work! Fortunately, the kid wasn't hurt badly. It is really dangerous if someone falls and can't get emergency assistance."

A senior managers at Badaling Great Wall office explained that emergency telephones were paid for by the local public security bureau in 2002. However, the phones have fallen into disrepair due to exposure to the elements and vandalism. Upkeep of the phones costs 150,000 yuan every year, and it would cost three million yuan to replace them. The office says it doesn't have those kind of funds.

The local public security bureau has plans to resolve this issue, but it is not clear exactly when the phones will be replaced.



Excavation work for the airport subway started this Wednesday.

Xinhua Photo

First driverless subway train for 2008

By Huang Daohen

The Beijing Capital International Airport rail link (commonly known as the Door Line) will be the first fully driverless operation line in China, for which the Alstom consortium will supply the communication-based train control system (CBTC).

The airport link is now

under construction and will be in service by mid 2008 in time for the Beijing Olympic Games. This new line of 28 km, four stations and one depot will allow passengers to reach the Capital International Airport at speeds of up to 110 kph, compared to the current domestic maximum speed of 80 kph.

An advanced URBALIS

solution, provided by Alstom and its joint venture partner, CASCO Signal Ltd, will be adopted on the line. The URBALIS solution is a radio-based train control system, including the CBTC, the wireless local area network (WLAN) for train control, interlocking trackside equipment, as well as the operating control center.

Couples rush to tie the knot on August 8

By Han Manman

On August 8, thousands of couples waited for up to seven hours in front of marriage registry offices to complete the 15-minute formality to get married. The offices, which normally close at 5pm, remained open until midnight.

While August 8 is traditionally a popular day for marriage ceremonies in China, it fell on a muggy Tuesday this year. However, the couples that married on this date numbered five to six times more

than on an average day. An official of the Chaoyang District Marriage Management office said, "We registered over 400 couples today, while the number on a normal day is only around 70."

To understand why thousands of local couples rushed to tie the knot on Tuesday, some waiting since 3am, you should know that August 8, 2006 is believed to be an auspicious day for marriage in Chinese tradition. For centuries the number eight has signified wealth

and good luck in China, so Tuesday's date, consisting of two eights, is considered to be one of the best days to get married. The other explanation is that August 8 is the lunar calendar date for July 15. '715' in Chinese sounds like 'a wife wants me'. In case anyone wanted another reason, the day is also two years before the 2008 Olympic games opening ceremony.

"I want to celebrate my wedding anniversary together with the Beijing Olympics opening cer-

emony. Lots of couples wanting to register on this day hold the same wish as me," a Mr Hu said, adding, "Being there to watch the opening ceremony while celebrating a wedding anniversary is meaningful."

According to the Beijing Marriage Registry Office, the most popular marriage registry dates are June 1, June 6 and August 8. The registered numbers on this August 8 are the highest compared with other years.

Foster parents sell all for sick daughter

By Jiang Xubo

Foster parents of an eight-year-old girl from Heilongjiang Province, who is terminally ill with leukemia, have sold their house to pay for their daughter's treatment. The girl is currently receiving chemotherapy whilst she awaits a bone-marrow transplant at Beijing Children's Hospital (BCH).

The girl, Rongrong, will receive bone-marrow in September, donated by her biological mother, after it was found to be a good match. Guan Naili and Wei Jinling, Rongrong's foster parents, managed to track the woman down to a town in Jiangsu

Province, eight years after she gave her daughter up for adoption.

"In a disease like Rongrong's, the success rate of chemotherapy is only ten percent. A bone-marrow transplant raises the chance of recovery to 60 percent. But a transplant operation may cost the family between 250,000 yuan (US\$31,000) and 300,000 yuan (US\$37,000)," said Qin Maoquan, the doctor at BCH who will be in charge of the operation.

Chemotherapy given in preparation for Rongrong's operation is costing her foster parents 1,500 yuan (US\$1,926) every day. In July, the couple sold their house

and household appliances to raise 80,000 yuan (US\$10,000) to pay for Rongrong's medical expenses.

"People tried to persuade us to give up on Rongrong. We might have considered that if she was our biological daughter, because we really can't afford this transplants. But we fostered her, so we couldn't bear to just give up. The operation is the only way to save our daughter's life," sobbed Guan Naili, Rongrong's foster father.

Rongrong was diagnosed with leukemia by a local hospital in June when she sought treatment for a fever. Her parents then brought her to Beijing for cancer

treatment.

The couple fostered Rongrong, who was abandoned as a baby, in 1998, and have raised her as their only child.

Public donations totaling some 36,000 yuan (US\$4,500) have flooded in the last few days, to help pay for Rongrong's treatment.

The China Red Cross Foundation donated 30,000 yuan (US\$3,760) Wednesday and launched a donation campaign to collect money to help Rongrong. For information on how to donate you can call the foundation on 6512 4690 or 6522 2340, or Rongrong's foster father on 8915 3351.

China confirms first H5N1 case

By He Jianwei

China's first case of human infection by the H5N1 bird flu virus occurred in 2003, two years earlier than the first H5N1 case China reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). The news came in an announcement by China's Ministry of Health on Tuesday.

The 2003 case was a 24-year-old male officer in the People's Liberation Army. The man died during the SARS outbreak, and his cause of death was given as pneumonia at that time.

The first H5N1 case China reported to the WHO occurred in 2005 in Hunan Province. A nine year old boy was the victim.

Brief news

Capital's GDP ranks second

The capital's GDP in the first half of this year hit 354 billion yuan (US\$44.4 billion), ranking second of the country's four municipalities directly under the Central Government, according to the Beijing Statistics Bureau.

Fires kill a thousand

Over 144,000 fires in the first seven months of this year left 963 people dead and 883 injured, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Crime rate falls

Police recorded over two million criminal cases in the first half of this year, down one percent, and solved some 1.2 million of them, up around four percent, the Ministry of Public Security announced.

IPR prosecutions

China prosecuted over 1,000 cases of intellectual property rights infringement in the first half of this year, seizing some 40 million fake items with a total value of more than 68 million yuan (US\$8.5 million), according to the General Administration of Customs.

Carbon dioxide emissions rise

China produced some 25.5 million tons of carbon dioxide last year, up 27 percent on emissions in 2000 and ranking the first in the world, according to the State Environment Protection Administration.

Tianjin set to be North China economic hub

Tianjin is to be designated as an international harbor, an ecological city, and the economic center of North China, according to The General Plan of Tianjin City (2005-2010).

Six billion commercial real estate

Foreign capital investment reached over six billion yuan (US\$750 million) in Beijing's commercial application real estate market in the first six months of this year, according to the Beijing Investment Promotion Bureau.

(By Jiang Xubo/He Jianwei/Gan Tian)

Chinese-US dating party pooped by official ban

By Chen Shasha

More than 200 women signed up to take part in a dating party, on learning that eleven American men were coming to Shanghai in search of wives. The women registered online at Shijijiyuan, a dating website, in the hopes of a face-to-face meeting with then men, but the event was banned by Shanghai's Bureau of Civil Affairs.

The advertisement for the party on the website claimed the eleven men were aged between 43 to 67, and all had incomes of more than US\$60,000 a year. 'They are handsome, talented and family oriented,' according to the notice for what was to be a dinner party, to be held on August 15. Women attending the party were expected to provide their ID card number, a requirement seen at previous Shijijiyuan organized activities, but the fee of 200 yuan per woman was double that charged for Chinese-only dating events.

Gong Haiyan, of Shijijiyuan, said women of ages ranging from 20 to 58 had applied to attend, including a number of widows and divorces. However, a report on the event in the *Shanghai Youth Daily* brought it to the attention of Shanghai's Bureau of Civil Affairs, who ultimately asked that the event be canceled. Zhou Jixiang, from the bureau, said that a policy issued by the State Council in 1994 banned international match-making for profit.

Gong claimed the money collected was not matchmaker's fees.



Rescuers at work in Asia-Pacific Earthquake Rescue Drills in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province.

Photo by Bright Huang

China hosts international earthquake rescue drill

By He Jianwei

The Asia-Pacific Earthquake Rescue Drills 2006 which began last Saturday in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, ended on Monday.

During the three day exercise, rescuers worked together, training in bringing relief rapidly and efficiently under simulated conditions of a devastating earthquake. The drill also explored organization, direction and coordination between Asia-Pacific nations and United Nations

agencies.

The drill aimed to test China's ability to cooperate with its international counterparts, and gave an opportunity for rescuers for different Asia-Pacific countries to share knowledge and experience, said Zhao Heping, from the China State Seismological Bureau.

Over 200 rescuers from China and overseas participated in the UN-coordinated exercise. China's national rescue team and 17 provincial

teams, were joined by teams from 17 other countries.

The foreign teams came from Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, India, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Italy, Sweden, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Nepal.

The drill is held annually in different Asia-Pacific countries or regions. Previous hosts include New Zealand, the Philippines and Singapore.

Tour companies provide pet getaways

By Han Manman

Armed with big traveling bags containing pet food, water, and pet accessories including shoes, dozens of campers and their four-legged companions began a week-long summer pets-and-owners camping expedition from Nanjing city to Huangshan in Anhui province, the first event of its kind in Nanjing.

The pets are the center of the camping expedition rather than their owners, whose main role seems to be carrying water and food for their furry companions, and pitching the tents.

Owners brought climbing shoes to make their pets' ascent of Huangshan painless, and kept an eye on the mood of their charges to avoid quarrels or fight with other pets.

Chen from tour organizers Biancheng Outdoor Club, said it isn't only humans who need to relax, pets need to get away from the daily grind as well. Restrictions on pets using public transport and at many tourist attractions exclude animals for many travel opportunities. This pet camping trip gives the beasts a chance to enjoy the beauty

of the nature and recharge their batteries, as well as getting to know other animals and their humans. Owners get to spend time around the campfire with like-minded animal lovers.

A vet is accompanying the trip in case any pet is affected by the heat or other illness. Ms Chen said that pets that want to join the camping trip are required to be in good health, and not pregnant or on heat.

Pet camping trips are a new phenomenon in China. As well as Nanjing, similar events have recently been arranged in Beijing,

Hangzhou and Tianjin

Mr Zhang, of Soogou.com, China's biggest pet dog website, said his company is the only one in the country to a professional pet tour service. "We not only provide local tour camps and tours around China, we can also arrange trips abroad. You just tell me where you want to go, then we will help you arrange it," Zhang said, but emphasized that services are only provided to their club members.

"No matter what kind of pet you have, cats, dogs, a lizard, or whatever, you can bring it to one of our camps," said Zhang.

Toxic antibiotics kill eight

By Qiu Jiaoning

Eight deaths are suspected to have been caused by the use of the clindamycin phosphate glucose injection produced by Anhui Huayuan Worldbest Biology Pharmacy, the government announced Thursday.

The deaths were reported in Hunan, Sichuan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Shanxi and Hubei.

In addition, more than 80 reports of severe reactions to the antibiotic in 10 provinces have been reported to the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Center of the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA). Patients in Qinghai Province reported kidney pains, stomachaches, nausea, vomiting and chest pains after being injected with the drug on July 27. An increasing number of patients nationwide, mostly from rural areas, have complained about symptoms ranging from chest and stomach pain, diarrhea, nausea to anaphylactic shock, after being injected with the drug during the last week.

China's Ministry of Health on Wednesday demanded all provincial health departments make daily reports about cases of adverse reactions to the



75-year-old Song Shuhua in Wuchang, who was hospitalized after taking a suspect injection.

CFP Photo

injection.

The ministry banned the use of the injection on August 3. The SFDA has sent a team of experts to investigate the raw and supplementary materials of the injection, and the production and examination process for finished products, the administration said in a statement. Their primary investigation suggests a production process problem may be the root of the trouble.

The company has produced about 3.7 million bottles of the injection since June and sold more than 3.18 million of them to 26 provinces, regions and municipalities. The company said in a statement that it had recalled 940,581 bottles as of Tuesday while 161,217 have been sealed by other cities' local authorities.

The use of fake and poor-quality products has killed dozens of people in China in recent years and has sparked widespread public fury about food and drug safety. A bogus drug scandal killed 11 people in Guangdong Province after they received injections of fake Armillarisni-A made by a Heilongjiang-based company.

Beijing will be ready for the Olympic Games

By Qiu Jiaoning

As the two-year countdown to the 2008 Olympic Games began, Beijing authorities have promised that preparations are on schedule and going smoothly in a press conference on Tuesday.

Traffic

Olympic planners are stepping up subway and airport construction ahead of the games and will encourage the use of public transport during the Olympics, said Jiang Xiaoyu, Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) executive vice president. With soaring car ownership, the city is regularly choked with traffic and pollution.

Liu Qi, BOCOG president, believes that new roads and subways and better traffic management will ensure a smooth Olympics. Four subway lines: the airport subway, the Olympic subway line and lines No 5 and No 10 are under construction. "We are also considering strengthening traffic control during the games time, by instituting special lanes," Liu said.

But other measures to reduce traffic, such as a proposed city holiday during the games, are still under consideration, Jiang said.

It is estimated that during the Games there will be around 500,000 foreign visitors in

Beijing with around 200,000 to 240,000 at the Games venues. The city will devote 20,000 policemen to guard the Games and help will be provided by 10,000 volunteers, said Wang Wei, another executive vice president of BOCOG.

Environment

Having changed the opening date to August 8 to avoid starting the Games during the rainy season, Beijing is being pressured to clean the air athletes will breathe. Wang said that the city will meet an ambitious goal of having acceptable air quality for 65 percent of the year, meaning measures would reach an international standard of moderate or better.

Beijing has promised enforce tougher emissions standards for cars, move polluting industries out of the city and reduce reliance on coal in favor of natural gas. However, the city has more than 9,000 construction sites now, including 12 competition venues, four subway lines and a new airport. The goal appeared out of reach after severe sandstorms in the spring, but an unusually rainy July helped clear the air.

In the meantime, organizers are confident that rain won't spoil the opening ceremonies. "We have studied the historic weather data on August 8 in the past 50, 30 and 10 years," said

Wang Wei, "On most of those dates there was no rainfall or very little rainfall, and so we are determined rain will not spoil the event."

Tickets

Over seven million tickets for the Beijing Olympics will be sold to the general public, according to Liu Qi.

The tickets will start being sold to contracted corporate clients in September and go on sale to the public in the first half of next year. Except for the opening and closing ceremonies and a few popular events, the majority of tickets will be very cheap. BOCOG will unveil ticket prices for the Games following final approval from the IOC, Liu said.

In China people can purchase tickets through an official ticketing agent which has yet to be named, Liu said. All others are required to purchase tickets through their corresponding national Olympic committees.

Venues

All competition venues and facilities will be completed by the end of 2007 to ensure the smooth operation of the trial events, said Wang Wei.

Beijing will need 37 competition venues and 76 training venues for the 2008 Olympic Games. Thirty-one of the 37 competition venues are located in Beijing. The others are the sailing

venue in Qingdao, the equestrian venue in Hong Kong and four venues for football preliminaries in Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao.

At present, the authorities of Beijing and Qingdao municipalities are preparing the first two test events, namely the International Softball Federation (ISF) XI Women's World Championship and International Sailing Regatta which will take place in mid to late August.

In addition to the competition venues, construction of such facilities as the National Conference Centre, Digital Beijing Building, Olympic Village, Media Village and Olympic Forest Park are also moving ahead as planned.

Others

The Beijing Olympic Games will take place from August 8 to 24, 2008, followed by the Beijing Paralympic Games, which will be held from September 6 to 17. The Competition Schedule by Day and the Competition Schedule by Session have been approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the Competition Managers for 28 sports have been confirmed by the International Sports Federations. The 2008 Olympic Games has a total of 28 sports, 38 disciplines and 302 events. There will be 18 competition days and 623 competition sessions.



Beijing Olympic icons unveiled

By He Jianwei

Pictograms for the Beijing 2008 Olympics met the public on August seven coinciding with the 2-year Olympic countdown.

In the form of black and white seal characters, the icons mix the pictographic charm of the bone and bronze inscriptions of ancient China with the simplicity of modern graphics making them easy to recognize, remember and use.

"Pictograms are used in the application of rubbings which is a Chinese traditional printing form to reproduce graphics and characters onto paper," said Hang Hai, vice professor in the China Central Academy of Fine Arts and one of the designers of the icons.

The seal form for the Beijing 2008 Emblem and the pictograms represent Chinese traditional art, Hang added.

Beijing aims to stamp out 'Chinglish'

Beijing, August 8 (Reuters) – Beijing authorities hope to eradicate 'Chinglish' from bilingual signs in the Chinese capital in time for the 2008 Olympic Games, state media Xinhua News Agency reports this week.

Poor translation into English is commonplace in China as it is in much of Asia and has spawned a rash of websites dedicated to highlighting the often humorous results.

English speakers in Beijing have in the past been invited to visit 'Racist Park' – more accurately translated as the Park of Ethnic Minorities – and warned

to take care on wet roads as 'the slippery are very crafty'.

The Beijing Municipal Tourism Bureau will require the city's 4,000 unrated hotels to translate their names, service hours, room rates, menus and notices for guests into accurate English in order to offer accommodation to visitors for the Games, according to report by state news agency Xinhua.

The NGO Beijing Speaks to the World Committee is also hard at identifying mistranslations in the capital and has compiled a set of standards on translation for public signs.



Chinglish signboards are a familiar sight in the capital.

Photo by sina.com

Beijing's power use hits daily record

Beijing, August 9 (AFP) – China's capital notched up a daily record for electricity use this week despite government efforts to promote energy efficiency.

The amount of power consumed in Beijing Tuesday reached 10.81 million kilowatts, exceeding the previous record last year of 10.65 million kilowatts, according to the Beijing Electric Power Corporation, Xinhua news agency said.

High humidity which made the weather feel even hotter was blamed for the increased power consumption.

Large numbers of residential and office towers have also been built in Beijing in recent years, contributing to an increased use of air conditioning and lights.

Another important factor is Beijing's rising population, which has surpassed 15 million from just under 11 million in 1990.

The corporation estimates Beijing's peak power load could rise to as high as 12.2 million kilowatts sometime this summer, with more muggy days forecast.

The city's electricity grid was able to handle the higher load on Tuesday following the recent completion of 74 new power projects, said Gan Yinhui, deputy director of the corporation's production technology section.

Amid rising demand for power, central government and Beijing authorities have made energy efficiency a high-profile issue in recent years.

The Chinese government in June raised retail electricity prices for the first time in over a year.

But it is generally reluctant to hike prices significantly for fear the increased financial burden could spark public discontent and hit state company profits.

In other energy efficiency moves, the Beijing government has encouraged office buildings to keep air conditioners at 26 degrees or above.

The International Energy Agency said last month China needed to take more measures to encourage efficient use of electricity, highlighting the waste of power and environmental pollution from mostly coal-fired power plants.

China is now the second-biggest consumer of electricity in the world after the United States.



High humidity made the weather feel hotter over the past two weeks.

AFP Photo

Interview with the editor:

Globalization is seeing the use of English spread around the world. The language is changing rapidly with the influence and inputs of different cultures and languages, creating such phenomena as Spanglish, Singlish, and Chinglish.

I personally have never been to China, but am quite interested in Spanglish and Singlish. You can learn history, culture and more from the distorted local English there.

I do think if you are going to use English, it is better to stick to proper English as far as possible, because that is the only way to ensure everyone around the world can understand.

It's similar to Chinese people having many dialects but also all speaking Mandarin. It's a must for communications.

— Kristine Garcia, editor, stuff.co.nz



Beijing, August 6 (PTI) – Making two elephants and a helicopter disappear, cutting off people's heads and recycling paper after swallowing it figure among the feats that top Indian magician Kruti has performed in China.

Kruti Parekh, one of the

Indian magician mesmerizes China

world's youngest magicians, and one of only a few women illusionists, entertained children in Tianjin, when she performed at the 2006 International Children's Culture and Art Festival there.

"I really had a good time with children in Tianjin where they enjoyed my magic shows," Kruti said of her first visit to China.

Kruti said her trip had fulfilled one of her ambitions – to perform in China. As well as Tianjin, she also performed in Shanghai, where the Indian community arranged a show.

"I was the only foreign

artist who was allowed to have two one-hour shows in Tianjin, which was appreciated by the audience, mostly children," the Mumbai-based magician said.

Kruti, who was India's first test tube baby, has just passed an engineering degree in information technology with distinction.

"Now that I have passed my engineering degree, I would like to develop the idea of a computerized magic show where the entire audience would be transferred to locations around the world with me," she said of her future plans.

Interview with the reporter:

Kruti did not perform in Beijing, but she has been quite satisfied with the opportunity to come to China.

I wrote this report to use Kruti as an example of bilateral exchanges and communication.

Our two countries need, urgently, to know more and better about each other, and more importantly, give more chances to ordinary people to communicate with each other.

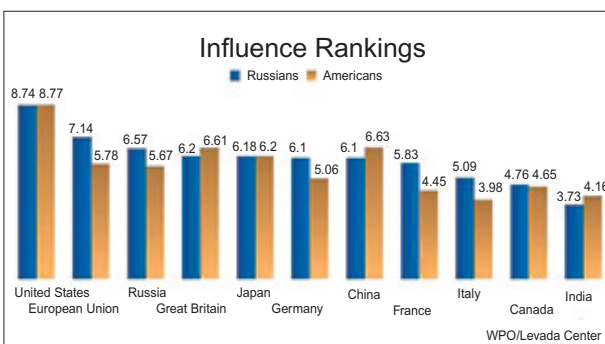
— Anil K. Joseph, PTI Beijing

Americans, Russians agree the US top, disagree on up and comers

Washington, August 1 (World Public Opinion) – The United States is unquestionably the world's dominant nation, Russians and Americans agree. But while Russians put themselves among today's top three powers – and believe they will play a larger role in the future – Americans see China as their chief rival for global influence.

A new joint poll by WorldPublicOpinion.org and the Levada Center got these and other results from representative samples of the American and Russian publics surveyed in June and early July, 2006.

Asked to rate the influence of 11 countries on a scale of 0 to 10, respondents in both countries gave by far the highest score to the United States. Americans on average give their own nation an 8.77; Russians give their former Cold War rivals an 8.74. No other coun-



try is given a score higher than 8 by either public.

But that is where bilateral agreement ends. Russians look West for the next most important world power, ranking the European Union as number two, with a score of 7.14. They choose themselves as number three, giving the Russian Federation a score of 6.56.

Americans, in contrast, see their closest rival in the East, selecting China as the second

most influential country in the world. China, already an economic power in Asia and an emerging military force, gets a score of 6.63, a hair higher than the United States' closest international ally, Great Britain, which gets 6.61.

Americans don't give Russia much weight in the world: the former super power is ranked sixth with a score of 5.67. That's after Japan (6.20) and the EU (5.78).

Interview with the researcher:

In our survey, we found most Americans are impressed by the rapid economic growth, increasing military power, fascinating culture and history, and the huge but friendly population of China.

Most Americans believe China will be more important, and more challenging to the US, than Russia, though the Russians believe they are more important. The fact is that both the two countries are important in world affairs. Only cooperation, rather than confrontation, can make us friends and make the world safer.

Another interesting point found in the survey is that many Americans, unlike their government, welcome the fact of 'China rising', as long as the rising leads to prosperity and peace.

— Steven Weber, senior researcher, WorldPublicOpinion.org

Wal-Mart promises to let China staff unionize

Beijing, August 9 (Bloomberg) – Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, said it will allow employees in China to unionize, following criticism that the company exploits lax employee protection in the country to keep costs low.

Wal-Mart, which employs 23,000 people in China, agrees to let the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) set up branches in all its outlets, company spokesman Jonathan Dong



Wal-Mart employees cheering
AP Photo

said by telephone today from southern China's Shenzhen city.

Wednesday, ACFTU warned

Wal-Mart not to retaliate against the workers who form unions.

The group, "led by the Communist Party and backed by the government, will take measures to protect these workers," Xinhua reported, quoting Guo Wencai, director of ACFTU's department of grass roots organizing.

The retailer has come under fire from unions including the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, which says the Arkan-

sas-based Wal-Mart contributes to US job losses and human rights violations. Wal-Mart's US employees aren't unionized.

Wal-Mart, which has 60 outlets in China, wants to open as many as 20 more stores this year. China's average annual economic growth of 9.1 percent over the past decade has raised household incomes. The country supplies Wal-Mart's 6,000 global branches with clothing, shoes, televisions, toys and other products.

KFC tells staff: 'You don't work for us.'

By Chu Meng

Beijing KFC has formally announced they will no longer directly employ delivery drivers and logistics staff. From now on, they will be employed through labor agencies.

The move has been coming. In April 2004, Beijing KFC told their delivery and logistics staff they would be signing a contract with a Beijing-based HR agency specialized in providing labor to foreign companies in China. Their paychecks and social insurance would be handled by the agency.

Last year, Xu Yang, a member of delivery staff, was fired after making a mistake at work. Shortly after, Xu claimed that he now suffers from rheumatism as a result of working in KFC's refrigerated warehouse, and sought compensation and labor insurance payments for his 11-years working there.

KFC initially refused his request, saying he was not their employee and he had not signed any formal contract with them. The issue has raised concerns about manpower dispatching in the multinationals in China.

The most recent move is seen as an out-of-court solution to KFC's most recent warehouse headache. They were filed with a suit at the Dongcheng District Court by a group of 28 disgruntled warehouse employees in May.

War no good for business



A bar is nearly empty in the coastal city of Haifa, north of Israel. The fighting between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants has ruined tourism in the city.
Xinhua Photo

Forbes releases 'China Top 100 Enterprises List'

By Gan Tian

Forbes China has released the 'China Top 100 Enterprises List', among which Legend Holdings Ltd ranks first, Gome Electrical Appliances eighth and Suning Electrical Appliances 10th.

According to the list, Legend Holdings Ltd, the parent company of famous Lenovo Group and DigitalChina, earned a profit

of 108 billion yuan in 2005. The rest of the top 10 are Huashi Group, Huawei, Jiangsu Shagang Group, China Guangsha, Shandong Weiqiao Pioneering Group, China Minsheng Banking Corp, Gome, Jiangxi Copper Corporation, Suning. Haier Group ranked 11th.

Compiler Liu Ruiming said that Tuesday's list marked the

first time Forbes had focused on non-state-owned companies in China. To be eligible, companies had to have earned three billion yuan worth of sales in 2005, mainly on the Chinese mainland. The result revealed that the average capital asset of top 100 enterprises is 13 billion yuan, with the average sales income some 10 billion yuan.

Shenzhen Airlines plunders bankrupt Varig for pilots

By Qiu Jiaoning

Shenzhen Airlines, a leading private airline in China, has hired 40 Brazilian pilots, which is the largest number of foreign pilots ever employed by a Chinese airline, according to a CCTV report.

These pilots, most of whom previously worked for Brazil's bankrupt national airline Varig, are all experienced pilots and have received licenses from the China's General Administration of Civil Aviation (CAAC). Twenty of the pilots have arrived in China and are currently taking Chinese language courses.

The pilots will be paid a salary of US\$8,000 per month, a little more than what they were getting in Brazil.

China's booming commercial aviation industry is taking off more rapidly than the country can train pilots, so China has allowed Chinese airlines to employ foreign pilots since last July. Between 14 March and 22 July, CAAC has registered 116 foreign pilots with another 44 in the process of being registered. The statistics reveal a huge increase, with a significant proportion coming from Brazil, Singapore and the US.

Commercial property prices continue to rise

By Jiang Xubo

Strong demand and robust economic growth, coupled with a lack of new supply, are driving commercial property rents and prices across the Asia Pacific region, with office rents in some markets reaching all-time highs, according to Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL) latest issue of *Asia Pacific Property Digest*.

Demand was broad-based with the banking and finance sectors leading occupier enquiries, followed by professional services such as accounting and law firms. Consumer business and IT

companies were equally keen to expand, and though their requirements were not necessarily for Grade A properties, some were willing to pay the premium to stay in core locations.

Leasing activity in most cities was hampered by the lack of supply rather than a lack of demand.

Beijing and Shanghai saw increasingly active leasing markets as further deregulation of China's money markets and business services sector is driving greater demand for office space.

Huawei, Vodafone in Spain's 3G

Shanghai, August 9 (Interfax) – Huawei joins Vodafone to deliver and install the radio access portion of Vodafone's WCDMA/3G broadband HSDPA network in Spain.

Huawei, a global WCDMA/HSDPA supplier, has secured 30 WCDMA/HSDPA commercial contracts.

Bank of Beijing eyes IPO

Beijing, August 9 (Reuters) – Bank of Beijing reaffirmed its hope of selling shares to the public next year.

The bank also said it would open a branch in Tianjin by the end of the year.

The bank has 120 branches in and around the capital. Its assets increased to 238.5 billion yuan (US\$29.92 billion) at the end of June.

Gome to open drug stores

By Gan Tian

Gome, China's biggest home appliance chainstore, is entering the pharmacy industry, along with the US-based Walgreens. It will found Gome Pharmacy Ltd in Tongzhou district.

Each retail chain store is expected to cost one to two million yuan. By the end of 2006 Gome expects to have 10 shops in Beijing.

China grants new QFIIs

Beijing, August 10 (MarketWatch) – China Securities Regulatory Commission approved three foreign institutions to invest in the domestic capital market.

The three new QFIIs are Stanford University, United Overseas Bank Ltd., and General Electric Co.'s GE Asset Management Inc. They can buy yuan-denominated securities traded within China.

By the end of 2005, China had approved 31 QFIIs to invest a total of US\$5.645 billion in yuan-denominated shares and bonds, according to data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

China Netcom to distribute Olympics signals

Beijing, August 10 (Reuters) – China Netcom signed an agreement with the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co. Ltd (BOB) to disseminate all the sports broadcasting signals throughout the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

BOB is a joint venture between Beijing Olympic organizing committee and the International Olympic Committee, responsible for producing and distributing the television and radio feeds of the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics.

Coke and Pepsi under fire again

The Associated Press
“India’s top court has asked Coca-Cola and Pepsi to disclose the ingredients of the soft drinks they sell here amid allegations the drinks contain high levels of pesticide,” the Associated Press reports from New Delhi.

“The Supreme Court notice on Friday came days after a New Delhi-based independent research body said it found samples of Coke and Pepsi contained pesticide residue that was 24 times above the limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The Center for Science and Environment in New Delhi said it carried out tests on 57 samples taken from 11 soft drink brands made by Coca-Cola India and PepsiCo India.”

Both companies denied the charges, saying the soft drinks they manufacture and sell in India “comply with stringent international norms and all applicable national regulations.”

The toxins found in the soft drinks could, if consumed over a long period, cause cancer, birth defects and damage to the nervous system, the Center for Science and Environment said in a report released earlier this week.

Comments:

“India’s Supreme Court on Friday asked Coke and Pepsi to disclose the ingredients in their drinks.”

You don’t need that to test for pesticides! Only need that if they’re connected to two-bit thieves who want to make Lepsi-Cola and Koka-Kola that taste like it. I hope Coke tells them to shove it.

— chrysocyon brachyurus

Third world countries need more nutrition, not junk sodas, because millions of children are dying.

— verity wins

Duh! It is not a health tonic. Soda is bad for you. The untreated water they drink in parts of India has more contaminants than Pepsi.

— leezlevontramp

Are they that dumb and uninformed about reading labels and ingredients? Perhaps the country ought to learn to read and be more concerned with what you put in your body? They must be stupid to



Indian activists shout slogans and burn Pepsi and Coca Cola signs near Parliament in New Delhi.
IC Photo

have to have the government get involved in what’s in there. This is a ploy to get the trade secret.

— oreoboots

I used to drink diet Pepsi for years. While I can’t say for certain if drinking it gave me kidney cancer, I’m glad that I don’t drink anymore of it and that I’m nearly past the five years recurrence period.

— seaside123200

American companies don’t give a damn about the rules and regulations. This latest example of Coke and Pepsi is just one of a long line of outrages going back for years. Remember the toxic spills of American manufacturing plants in Mexico?

— redep16

I bet if Coke and Pepsi pulls out of India, or even threatens to do so, and lay off all the people that work there...the headline will change to ‘Contamination Found At Lab Performing Tests.’

— betterpb4ugo

Coke products made in India are made with Indian ingredients. Duh!

— mtceman2003

ITainted Coke and Pepsi. I don’t know all the facts, but I am very skeptical of these supposed findings of pesticide in Coke and Pepsi. I lived in India for a summer, drank lots of Pepsi and Coke there. It seems fine to me. How could both companies all of a sudden allow pesticide in their product? Why aren’t we hearing about people getting sick from poisoning?

— thefelliXman

India tried this in the 1970s with Coca-Cola because they just wanted the recipe. Coke withdrew from India, and left the cola market to Pepsi. But it wasn’t the Pepsi we know here in the US, because Pepsi wouldn’t share their recipe either. The product ended up being called Lehar Pepsi, tastes a little like real Pepsi, but not quite.

— brad nail

Is everything produced in mass quantities poison? We are all going to be murdered by the corporate hands that feed us.

— SkiTZo

Postpartum depression hits dads too

HealthDay Reporter

“Almost as many new fathers as mothers suffer depression after the birth of a child, a new study shows,” Ed Edelson reports in HealthDay Reporter.

About 14 percent of mothers and 10 percent of fathers showed signs of moderate or severe postpartum depression, according to the study, which followed more than 5,000 members of two-parent families.

New parents’ relationships with their children were determined by questioning such practices as breast-feeding, putting the child to bed on his or her back, and whether the parents read to, played peek-a-boo with or sang to the child.

“What we found in this study is that basic day-to-day interactions were impaired in fathers, just as they were in mothers,” said James F. Paulson, study leader. “Also, basic activities were impaired.”

Dr. William Coleman, a professor of pediatrics at the University of North Carolina, said, “Physicians do a very poor job asking about or detecting postpartum blues in the mother, and they may not even see the father.”

Depression in a father leads to a well-known pattern of behavior, Coleman said. “He tends to work longer, to watch sports more, to drink more and be solitary,” he said.

Yet, it’s important to detect postpartum depression in a father for the sake of the child’s long-term outlook, Paulson said. “Based on what we know of mothers’ postpartum depression, it is associated with health problems later on, not only emotional problems and difficulties adjusting to school but also basic health problems,” he said.

Comments:

Lack of sleep depresses anyone. Maybe that’s why everyone is depressed. We’re up all night with the new baby. Very stressful.

— marinebio270

Another psychiatry sales-job! Yep, it’s true. Dads are now our market too. Dad’s ‘suffer from depression too’ and we need to make sure we get all the new insured customers we can. We need to ‘better screen’ fathers for ‘signs of depression’ so that we can make more money! More money for psychiatry and the FDA!

— toodeep4mee

Having my son has been and is one of the most wonderful experiences I have had - can’t get enough of the little tyke. No depression here at all.

— mockycocky

This is a joke. What are the dads suffering from? Hormone change, engorgement, stress, lack of sleep? Whatever. They might feel some stress from

being a new parent and the expense it can bring, but not depression. Give me a break. I have had four kids and I know the true meaning of PPD. Men do not have any idea what is going on with us and they can not even think that what they experience is even close to the same. Nice try guys, but you don’t get to claim this one.

— mktk401

Here’s my guess about this. Many new fathers have a tough time adjusting to the birth of a child because that means they may feel less important...the new little one is hogging the spot

light so to speak. Most men are not prone to feelings of nurturing...most men need to compete...to get the attention. When a child is born...well...the show’s over in many men’s eyes.

— humrickhous

It never ceases to amaze me that huge elite colleges do studies on things of this nature that are so amazing trivial! Having a child does not just affect the mom.

— annesdolls

I’ve heard reports for years of various ‘co-pregnancy’ symptoms among fathers. You people can laugh all you like, but we’ve had five kids, and each time,

I’ve gained weight and experienced fatigue along with my wife. I’ve heard from many dads who report the same, to the point where this is common sense.

— hypotheses non fingo

Men and women both suffer from PPD, the men feel they have to be more successful and earn more money.

— wilowdreams

Should be quite a difference in levels of depression between them as most mothers are the ones who sacrifice the most. They sacrifice the most sleep and their bodies as they are healing.

— patriotpassion

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

- 1.Expect Mideast war to get grimmer
- 2.Iraq VP: ‘foreign interference’ is the problem
- 3.Japan’s love affair with Androids
4. Why the BP spill should alarm us
5. Will Iraq help Dems or GOP this fall?

New York Times (USA)

- 1.Men not working, and not wanting just any job
- 2.Tax cheats called out of control
- 3.Washington traffic jam? senators-only elevator

- 4.Blogger jailed after defying court orders
- 5.Bush’s embrace of Israel shows gap with father

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

- 1.Gang rape: DNA test ordered
- 2.Don’t buy that new PC just yet
- 3.Robin Williams heads for rehab
- 4.It’s Bomber v Ironbar
- 5.Grateful guest shakes her Aussie booty

Toronto Star (Canada)

- 1.You’re being watched, Net users warned

- 2.Rabid bat found in baby’s room
- 3.Penguins scattered on Texas highway

Daily Telegraph (UK)

- 1.Surgeons fought for hours to save Castro’s life
- 2.’I’m staying for at least a year’ vows Blair
- 3.British troops ‘on brink of exhaustion’
- 4.Religion off the agenda in church of laughter
- 5.U2 move their assets out of Ireland (By Jiang Xubo)

Melancholic Italian will show a vibrant Beijing

By Chen Shasha

Giuseppe Tornatore, one of the most successful Italian directors of his generation, chose August 10 to spill the beans on his 2008 Olympic promotion movie.

He's one of five international filmmakers who have been invited to China to screen special movies of three to five minutes for the Games.

Of five directors involved in the project—named 'Vision Beijing'—Tornatore is the first to

arrive in the capital. "It is my first time here. It's a shame the trip will be so short," Tornatore said. After visiting some tourist sites like the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Olympic studio, Tornatore delayed leaving the city until August 11, in order to see Beijing railway station and Panjiayuan market. "It is important to see how people live," Tornatore explained.

Tornatore's appearance in Minzu Hotel was greeted with



a flurry of flashbulbs, as *The Legend of 1900*, his first English movie and *Malena* are both highly regarded in China. "The filmmakers were chosen according to how famous they are in China," said Wang Lin, one of the organizers of 'Vision Beijing'. Majid Majidi from Iran, known for *The Children in Heaven*, has also accepted an invitation to make a movie.

Tornatore's movies are known for their sadness. Born in Sicily, his movies often express his

homesickness. However, Tornatore plans to show an energetic Beijing in his short Olympic movie. "On seeing a group of Chinese people singing spontaneously in Jingshan Park, I was deeply moved by their confidence and vigor," Tornatore said.

Tornatore will come back to Beijing to screen the movie in October. Afterwards, he and the other five filmmaker's movies will be shown on Chinese media and airplanes until 2008.

Classic cars make it from A to B

As in 'Amsterdam' to 'Beijing'



The cars in Yining, Xinjiang

Photo provided by www.abr2006.com

By Jackie Zhang

One-hundred classic cars driven by 200 adventurers arrived in Beijing this morning. The closing ceremony was held at Juyongguan Great Wall, representing the end of the Amsterdam-Beijing Classic Car Endurance Rally 2006.

"A gala dinner will be held this evening celebrating the success of the event," said Amada Wei from Netherlands Board of

Tourism Beijing Office.

The 200 Dutch adventurers started their journey on July 15 from the Palace on Dam Square in Amsterdam, passing through 14 countries in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia and finally entering China. The oldest car was a Bentley Speed Six made in 1934.

"Participants drove approximately 700 kilometers a day in cars that are on average between

30 to 50 years old," said Jan Vermeer, organizer of the rally. Although cars played a principal part, that's not all the event that is about. "Competition, culture, camaraderie and adventure are central," Vermeer said.

The rally joined forces with the Make A Wish Foundation, a charity that makes the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses come true.

The rally's theme was 'From

a childhood dream to a child's wish'. "We want to emphasize that the rally is not just about competition and fun, there is also a serious side to it," said Vermeer, "Five percent of all sponsor funds that the rally generates will go to the foundation, so that not only the participants' dreams come true, but also those of the young children who are battling life-threatening illnesses."

German drunk driver gets three years hard time

By Huang Daoheng

A German drunk driver who caused a traffic accident leading to two deaths last year was sentenced to three years in prison, and another three on probation, the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court ruled this week.

The accident occurred on Jingshen Road in Shunyi last June 24 when the drunk driver, a Mr Schumalong, tried to cross the center line in his SUV and crashed into a saloon car. The saloon driver, Mr Zhang, and a passenger in the back were killed in the accident. Schumalong and two others in his car were also injured. After the accident, Schumalong reached a mediated settlement with the victims' families, each receiving a compensation of 800 thousand yuan. In September 21, Schumalong was released.

This week's court ruled in favor of what is seen as a fairly light punishment. A traffic accident causing two deaths due to drunk driving constitutes a serious traffic offence. However, the court took into consideration Schumalong's efforts to compensate the victims' families.

Asia's youth descends on Beijing

By Annie Wei

China International Youth Exchange Center has held its first international students' summer camp in Beijing. The camp attracted more than 700 students, aged 12 to 17, from Asian countries like South Korea, Japan, the Philippines and China.

The camp arranged many activities for students to experience Chinese culture, including kung fu, cooking, tea, calligraphy, and paper-cutting, as well as visiting Beijing's universities and high-schools, and playing sports.

Bai Xue, an associate from the center, said that students had enjoyed the camp, especially the visits to local families and famous sights.

Beijingers race against cancer

By Jackie Zhang

The 2006 Beijing Terry Fox Run will take place on Saturday, September 23. The event is jointly organized by the Chinese Cancer Institute and Hospital, the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, the China Cancer Foundation and the Beijing Red Cross.

Terry Fox is a well-known Canadian hero. In 1977, at 18-years-old, he was diagnosed with bone cancer and forced to have his right leg amputated. In 1980, Fox started his Marathon of Hope across Canada on an artificial leg to raise money for cancer research. However, Fox

was forced to stop running due to his cancer and later passed away at the age of 22.

The annual Terry Fox Run has been held across Canada and around the world to commemorate his feat and raise money for cancer research. Beijing is one of the 460 cities that holds the activity. The first Beijing Terry Fox Run was held in 1999 and funds raised last year amounted to over 1.2 million yuan.

This year, the run will start at the Workers' Stadium north gate at 10am and finish at the Cancer

Hospital, a distance of approximately eight kilometers. Everyone is invited to participate. You can run, walk, ride bicycles, use wheel chairs or roller blades.

"The Terry Fox Run is no longer just a Canadian event - it is a day for all people from all over the world to gather together and raise funds that are badly and urgently needed to find a cure for cancer," said Ambassador Robert G. Wright. "I encourage all members of the Beijing community to come out and participate."

People can donate money for

the event directly or through the purchase of the 2006 Beijing Terry Fox Run T-shirts. All funds raised by the run will be used for ongoing cancer research. A certificate of appreciation issued by Terry Fox Foundation is given when participants complete the journey of 8 kilometers.

There is no registration fee for the run. Participants should arrive at the starting location at least half an hour before the start time to be involved in the official start. For registration and donations, call 8778 8888 or 6779 3346.

More Chinese language teachers to teach in the UK

By Jiang Xubo

More Chinese teachers will go to the UK to give language lessons, meeting the country's increasing demand for Chinese learning, thanks to a five-year joint program launched by the two countries' education authorities.

"This year we have recruited 65 and we hope to increase this by at least a 20 a year for the foreseeable future," said Nicole de Lalouviere,

Director of Learning & Training, British Council Beijing. They are expected to teach Chinese using an interactive and communicative methodology. Sometimes they will be asked to teach aspects of Chinese culture such as painting, calligraphy, cooking, and martial arts.

The program, running from next year to 2011, aims to promote Chinese learning and teaching in UK schools, and educational co-

operation and exchanges between the two countries.

"Chinese is increasingly popular and so we expect there to be a steady increase in the numbers of students wanting to learn", the official added.

China will invite 500 students for a summer camp each year, holding Chinese language classes and participating in cultural activities. Meanwhile, a group of 100

head teachers and education officials from the UK will visit China's schools, getting to know the students and seeking to establish a link between the two countries' schools.

The two countries' education authorities signed a memorandum for the program at the UK-China Meeting on Chinese Learning and Teaching held in July in Beijing.

Beijing and Fribourg join hands for the future

By Jackie Zhang

The Beijing Investment Promotion Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce of Fribourg, Switzerland signed a friendly cooperation agreement at Beijing Hongkong Macao Center Swissotel on Monday.

The agreement will cover finance, digital media, environmental protection, agriculture, and energy. The two sides also discussed arranging a training program for Chinese managers going to Switzerland and holding a professional seminar every year.

Andre Uebersax, president of Fribourg's Chamber of Commerce, said that they intend to build a Swiss Center in Beijing, as well as maintaining the current one in Shanghai, built in 2003, which has invested US\$50 million in China.

At present, most of the Swiss enterprises in China are mainly in industrial fields, like medicine, chemicals and electronics. Last year, Swiss enterprises invested US\$377 million in Shanghai and US\$338 million in Beijing. Thirty-seven programs saw investment in Beijing and another 25 in Shanghai.

Cote d'Ivoire hosts national day reception



By Huang Daohen

The Cote d'Ivoire embassy held their national day reception at the Great Wall Hotel on the evening of August 7, to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the independence of the republic.

H.E. Mr. Konan Kramo, the ambassador, delivered a short speech, and said that the Cote d'Ivoire has become, since its foundation, a stable multilingual state, proving that even in today's world, unity in diversity is not just a dream. He also praised the

Chinese contribution to the development of the Cote d'Ivoire-China relationship. On behalf of the government and people of the Cote d'Ivoire, he expressed appreciation for China's support and the hope that China and the African countries will maintain a sincere friendship in the future. "The expanding and fruitful Sino-Cote d'Ivoire cooperation is without any political conditions", he concluded.

Some 300 guests attended the reception.

Photo provided by Cote d'Ivoire embassy

EU-China managers committed to idea exchange

By Han Manman

The EU has committed 17.2 million euros over five years to the EU-China Managers Exchange and Training Programme (METP) this week, which aims to build business and cultural links between the two parties.

Chinese managers from the public sector, business federations, NGOs, and media organizations will come to the EU for management training and internships. In return, EU managers will have the opportunity to follow a comprehensive programme of Chinese language training, internships and business seminars in China. It is a programme for young European managers to effectively under-

stand and work to develop their companies' business in the Chinese market. Participants in the METP are likely to play key roles in the development of future EU-China relations, not only in business but also in the public and NGO sectors.

In addition, there is a provision for the development of teaching materials, teacher training in China, and teacher exchanges. Any training will be followed with internships for participating managers for organizations in China and the EU.

Franz Jessen, deputy head of the EU mission Beijing, said that the European Union and China are working together towards strengthening bilateral commercial and economic exchanges.

Eat like an American

By Jackie Zhang

The American Food Festival 'Enjoy the Most America' kicked off last Saturday. The American Agriculture Trade Office and Wal-Mart are the organizations you can thank for that. The festival will last for two weeks in 32 Wal-Mart stores located in 17 cities across China.

Customers can now enjoy an American

atmosphere in the American food street in the stores, with displays featuring traditional American food like American northwest cherries, Californian wine, and Alaskan seafood. Wal-Mart staff will be dressed as native Americans, Hawaiians and cowboys and will invite customers to indulge in wine and snack tasting. American chefs will be on site to lead cooking seminars and demonstrate their skills.

Happy hour

5pm to 8pm
drinks 2 for 1

Includes beer, House pour spirits,
Wine by the glass, Soft drinks and cocktails.

Gong Ti Bei Lu
工体北路

Opening times 10am-late
Phone +8610 6507 2617
Fax +8610 6415 5242

www.pavillionbeijing.com
info@pavillionbeijing.com

US filmmakers raise awareness of China's AIDS orphans

By Han Manman

A series of public service campaigns on behalf of Chinese AIDS orphans produced by China AIDS Media Project in cooperation with China's Ministry of Health and UNICEF, is soon to debut on Beijing's buses, trains and public spaces.

Chinese-American filmmaker Ruby Yang and producer Thomas Lennon are founders of the China AIDS Media Project,

an international organization that aims to promote Chinese awareness of AIDS.

With the slogan 'Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS', the campaign features Chinese folk singer Peng Liyuan and AIDS orphans from the remote villages of Yingzhou District in Anhui Province.

Yang and Lennon followed these orphans in the rural villages of Yingzhou District for one year. They also shot a doc-

umentary called *The Blood of Yingzhou District* that records the orphans' lives. The film premiered on June 14 at the Silverdocs documentary festival in Silver Spring, where it won the coveted Grand Jury Prize.

The documentary, 39 minutes in length, is designed to dispel unnecessary fears and promote greater acceptance of AIDS orphans, who often suffer rejection in their home villages and schools. One of them, Gau

Jun, was abandoned by his family and now refuses to utter a word. He is a victim of social stigma, neighbors prevent their children from playing with him and his own extended family rejects him, fearing their own children will be isolated. The documentary will be shown this December in Beijing.

The current campaign on behalf of AIDS orphans is now being broadcast nationally on CCTV.



Photo provided by ASE Fine Wines Company

Wine, dine and refine

By Chu Meng

Chinese party lovers or businessmen in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen need no longer worry about losing face when discussing premium French wines at private dinner parties. The world's leading professional wine education organization, the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) is set to equip them with the practical wine knowledge and tasting skills that they thirst for.

The course consists of five levels as a whole. The first level, Foundation Certificate for example, will introduce to you the main styles of wine, the systematic approach to tasting, wine service and practical knowledge of basic matching of food and wine. Anyone interested in wine can take part and no prior wine knowledge is required. After a one-week's training, two-hours every evening, you will be tested and granted a certificate, if you pass.

Next is the second level, Intermediate Certificate in Wines & Spirits, to equip yourself with more in-depth knowledge of wines and tasting techniques, such as factors influencing style and quality, grape varieties, and regional, quality and stylistic labeling terms. The tasting formats increase in complexity with the level of study. After the entire course you will receive a diploma, which is recognized internationally.

The UK-based WSET programs administered in China by ASE Fine Wines Company are taught by wine educators Li Bing and James Rowell, both WSET Recommended Tutors.

The secret of mooncakes

By Chu Meng

Have you heard the old tale claiming that Italian pizza was actually Chinese pie brought back to Europe by Marco Polo in the 13th century but that he forgot how to put the stuffing into the dough? Well, mooncake lovers traveling in Beijing during the summer will not have the same problem thanks to a Chinese gold medal-winning chef from the Grand Hyatt Hotel who will unveil to you all the secrets of mooncakes.

The chef, Lau Guohua, is a middle-aged man from Guangdong. His first demonstration class was given in the back-kitchen of the hotel to 12 neophytes. Some of them were travelers from other countries; others were simply interested in cooking. In professional chef gowns, we all stood in a row, staring curiously at the special ingredients, molds and cookware.

First he started to make the syrup. Sugar, water, lemon, and pineapple slices were put into a saucepan and boiled over a slow fire until golden brown. Lau said that it took at least six hours. To make it quicker and easier, the chef took out another saucepan of syrup he had prepared earlier. Mixing flour with the syrup produced the dough for the mooncake crust.

After Lau had finished all the complicated stages for us, everyone began to go through the process step by step. We took a portion of dough and rolled it into a thin circular piece. Take a 150g ball of lotus seed paste and wrap in the mooncake crust. Dust a mooncake mold with flour. We pressed the dough with filling into the mold and then tapped lightly to remove. Laughter burst out - how ugly these mooncakes were! It was much harder than we expected.

Thirty minutes later, when chef Lau took the mooncakes, out of the baking tray, everybody could not wait to have a taste.



Would-be chef Chu Meng prepares to bake her ever first mooncake.

Photo by Zou Xiaolang

N W

BEIJING TODAY

August Promotion

English



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An officer from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce is checking fake wines from Remy Martin, Hennessy, to Martell, OX and VSOP. CFP Photo

ASK Beijing Today

1. Nick T from the US asked: Why does it seem impossible to find quality solid-color dark bed sheets? Why are they simply not made, and why are the cheapest upholsteries and furniture (like plastic stools, cheap bedspreads and quilts) covered in cutesy cartoon characters and Chinglish?

Different products have different target customers. If Chinese had the same tastes and shopping habits as everyone else there would be no need for marketing and consulting firms. If you are not happy with furniture covered in cutesy cartoon characters and Chinglish then you might try furniture stores like Dara at the 798 art zone, or the underground floor of the Henderson Center or the COFCO building near Beijingzhan, or ask for customized furniture from Gaobeidian, which is famous for making old-style Chinese furniture. If you think them too expensive, then go to IKEA or Qumei (a local brand on the north 4th ring road). You can also find pretty good deals in the furniture town on the south 3rd ring road.

About the solid-color dark bed sheets, we are sure you can find some in IKEA. Muxiuyan fabric market has tons of cheap but good quality fabric for that too.

2. Joe Ellis, from the UK, asked: What's the best way to prevent your bike being stolen?

Try using your common sense. And if that fails follow these three incisive tips:

1. Buy a cheap, crappy bike and try to make it as dirty as possible.
2. Copy the locals - put your bike in the elevator and take it up to your apartment.
3. If you own an electric bike, remove the battery when you are not using it.

3. David Sommer from the US asked: Why do they still have a red thermos full of hot water even in modern offices? I like this, reminds me of China!

A red thermos costs only 13 yuan, but a water dispenser costs at least 100 yuan. Those electronic machines with heating and cooling can cost more than 300 yuan. A bottle of water costs from 10 yuan to 14 yuan but only lasts half a day. From one point of view, the office can save quite a lot of money by using a thermos to hold hot water. From another point of view, a good quality red thermos can keep water hot for 12 hours and save energy compared to a heating dispenser.

Know what you are drinking?

By Annie Wei

Mark Zhu, a 28 year-old American Chinese was surprised to see a bottle of 34 yuan Johnnie Walker in a local supermarket. "It must be fake!" he said, "How come it can be sold in a shop?" Pirate CDs, fake brand clothes, bags and shoes have filled many a bargain hunter's shopping bag, but surely no one wants fake spirits?

Beverages and spirits with an improbably low price can easily be identified as fake. However, there may be more to the counterfeit spirits market than you realize.

In March of this year, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce announced the results of a quality inspection on imported spirits in Beijing, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Hangzhou. The inspected products were mainly Hennessy, Remy Martin

and Martell, including their XO and VSOP brands. 23 out of 40 samples turned out to be fake and only four out of 19 distributors were selling the real products.

According to the inspection, 23 fake samples had high-quality counterfeit corks, which are hard to detect for the average consumer; and some distributors sold VSOP brands (around 200 yuan per bottle) to customers as an XO brand (ranging from 700 yuan to 1,000 yuan) to make a greater profit. The authority announced that professional and wholesale markets are the main distribution channels for fake imported spirits.

"The most difficult to detect are the spirits that are a mixture of real and counterfeit products," said Luo Fei, an officer from Dongcheng Bureau of Industry

and Commerce. Especially those fake spirits with the same price of the real ones, the counterfeiters put in one third of the real spirits to make it hard for consumers to distinguish.

Chen Yuhui, an associate from Guangzhou-based International Imported Spirits Association, the only such group in China, said they help to identify the quality of imported spirits when the Industry and Commerce bureau carries out a testing exercise.

Another problem area is wine, which is often missold to Chinese customers. Distributors import cheap wine from abroad but sell it at a high price without worrying about being caught, since wine culture and appreciation is not widespread among China's mass consumers.

Cidre Lu, a wine consultant

said, "In the international market, wine is surplus. Cheap imported bulk wine costs only 7000 yuan per ton, which is only seven yuan per liter. But some manufacturers put them into bottles and claim they are expensive wine from France and sell them at around 60 yuan or so per bottle."

How do you avoid fake beverages? Lu said you need to have either a good knowledge of wine, or buy it from reliable distributors.

Many fake expensive imported beverages or spirits use a real bottle taken from recycling. When buying a bottle of beverages or spirits, look through the packaging to make sure it's well preserved. Also, fake spirits usually have a stronger smell and are not well sealed. Shake the bottle; if the liquor becomes cloudy, you should not pay for it.

Cutting the cost of broadband

By Wei Ying

Although many things in China are cheap, being wasteful is no good wherever you are. My friend from Malaysia just moved back to Beijing to start a new job. She's enthusiastic about making plans, such as finding an apartment, tailors, and the best deal on everything. Did you know that even ADSL has many different fee packages?

From CNC:

Fee per month	Length of use	Speed
30 yuan	25 hours per month	512k
55 yuan	50 hours per month	512k
60 yuan	30 hours per month	1M
99 yuan	55 hours per month	1M
120 yuan	24 hours per day	512k
150 yuan	24 hours per day	1M

The installation fee for a China Netcom Corporation ADSL connection is 300 yuan. They claim to reduce 15 yuan from the monthly fee for the first year. If your landlord is someone who has experience in dealing with foreign tenants, his apartment probably has had ADSL at some time in the past. You could put down ADSL as a basic requirement in the renting list along with the furniture, suggesting that the next tenant will also require the same thing and you should not pay for the installation.

(CNC's number is 10060)

From Gehua Cable:

Beijing Gehua CATV Network Co. Ltd also provides broadband service at a much lower price. As long as your apartment has cable TV, they can install a cable modem in your computer or laptop. The price is only 83 yuan per month without time limit, and is free of an installation fee or deposit for the equipment. The speed can reach 1M however; Gehua CATV network is not covered in all compounds yet. Call them (96196) to confirm whether your compound can use their service.

Things to be aware of:

The ADSL fee comes together with the phone bill. When you take an apartment from someone who is leaving, make sure that he or she leaves you extra money equal to the average price of their monthly phone bill. Because the phone bill is usually charged one month in arrears, the last tenant's phone bill won't be due until the next month.

When you share an apartment with

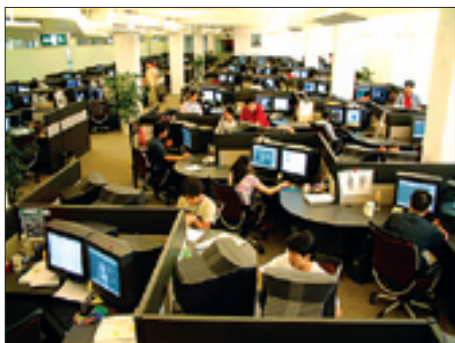
other people, you sometimes have bad luck and find the wrong flatmates. Be careful that he or she doesn't use the ADSL account to buy products online without informing you.

Also, an ADSL account number can be stolen. Vivian Lim, a 25-year-old girl had to stop her ADSL service when she found out that her account had been stolen. Lim used to subscribe to the 30-hour package and she did not have a lot of calls but her last phone bill was more than 600 yuan. "Last month I paid more than 1,000 yuan on calls, including another 400 yuan cell phone bill. But the extra ADSL hours are not from me but someone who stole my account," she said.

She called her landlord and the CNC. CNC said they could do nothing about it, and suggested she report it to the police but pay the bill first.

The CNC receptionist explained that the only way to avoid your account number being stolen was to change the pin frequently. "We keep updating the system and hopefully such problems can be solved in the future."

CGI canon



"Get the guy with the whip out of shot!": The Chinese team at work.



Fly me to the moon...

On Screen

The 90-minute movie tells the story of a 14-year-old boy, Jack Weir, who goes through a Moebius Strip to rescue his missing father on a planet 27 million light-years away from Earth and ends up helping his new giant alien friend fight to regain his throne.

The movie is targeted towards viewers from a range of ages living both home and abroad. It is dubbed first in English and secondly in Chinese.

"We watched the staff list at the end of foreign movies to find out what kind of positions and functions we should have, and just fumbled our way through"

— Cao Hui, assistant to the General Manager at the Institute of Digital Media Technology Limited

Behind the Scenes

The story is illustrated by French artist Jean Giraud, who uses the pen name Moebius, and directed by Glenn Chaika from the US. The animation production was completed by a Shenzhen-based company, the Institute of Digital Media Technology Limited (IDMT), which is seen by critics and the media as a milestone for Chinese CGI technology.

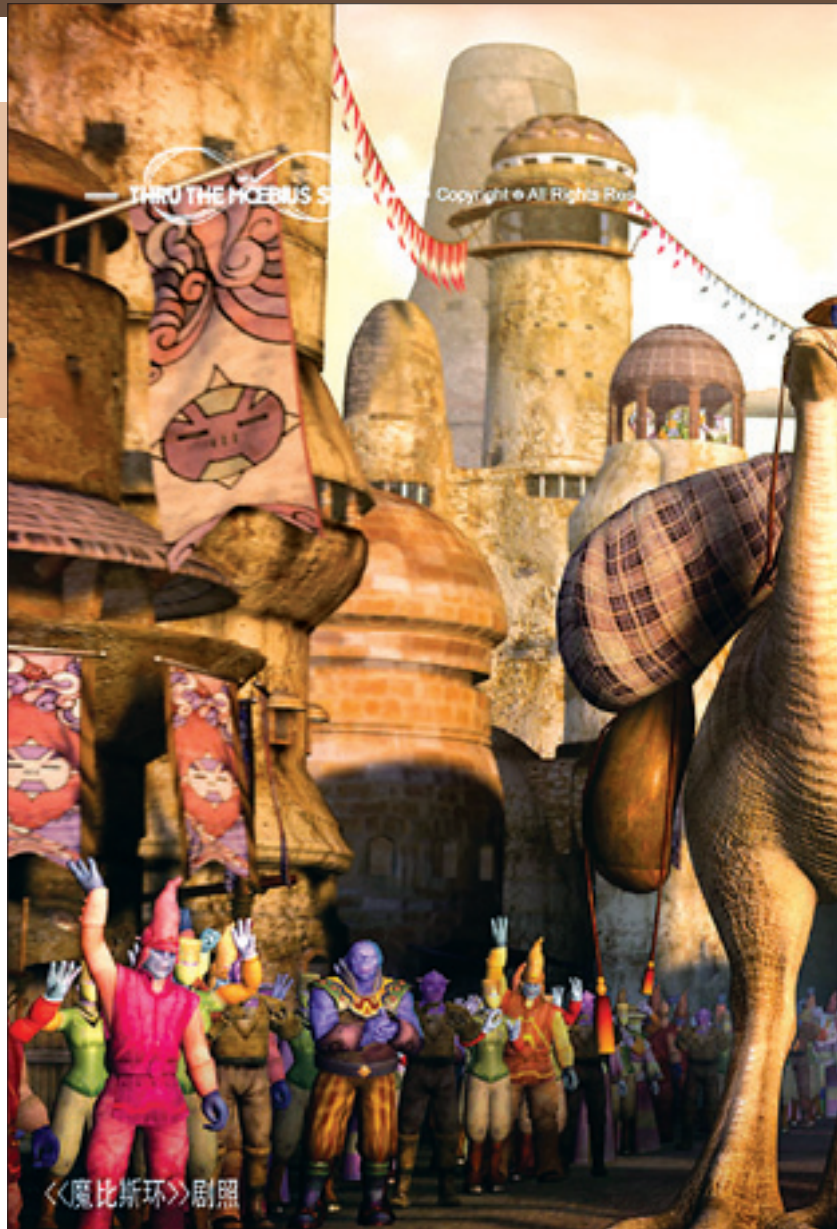
The whole project started in 2000. The first year was spent training Chinese software engineers — few Chinese knew about the techniques for 3D animation — so the real production began in 2001, when foreign supervisors and directors were invited to participate, according to Cao Hui, an assistant to the General Manager at IDMT.

Cao was a digital modeler at the beginning and became an assistant to the art supervisor later. "The most difficult thing was not just the quality of our software engineering but the flow of the whole production. We had no idea where we could look up the information we needed and we didn't know the management structure for a project of this kind. We watched the staff list at the end of foreign movies to find out what kind of positions and functions we should have, and just fumbled our way through" she said.

Five years was both a long and a short time for Cao. She still remembers a motif hanging on their wall that said: 'A long, long journey beset with difficulty aims to lead Asian cartoons'.

Although she encountered a lot of troubles, she enjoyed herself through all the difficulties of the five years of production. "Any scene on our computers got me excited," she added.

People from eight different countries and regions worked together, so there were many interesting stories. Cao recalled that the special effects supervisor Manny Wong (Hong Kong) was funny. One day they had problems animating heavy rain and invited Manny Wong to discuss the problem. "To my surprise, Manny answered my question in English and from his answers, we all knew I had been understood. We felt this was strange and asked him whether he knew Chinese. He shrugged and said in English, 'No, I don't.'"



"Please continue your business, nothing to see here": a scene from the movie.



King Tor

ly

By He Jianwei

Thru the Moebius Strip, China's first 3D computer generated imagery (CGI) animation, was launched in mainland Chinese cinemas early August. Behind this ambitious 3D animation project is a team of over 400 animators and engineers from eight different countries who worked together for five years using an investment of over 130 million yuan (US \$18 million).



Photos provided by IDMT

Off screen

The movie took two million yuan (US\$277,000) during its first week.

Professor Zheng Dongtian from the Beijing Film Academy opined, "The story didn't take into account the Chinese audience at all and it seemed that the target was purely the foreign market."

The representative of production confirmed this, "We targeted the market in the United States and Europe from the start. Worldwide distribution may be the only way to recover the multimillion dollar investment," said Jin Guoping, president of Institute of Digital Media Technology Limited.

But they insist that there are many Chinese details, from the huge castle gate to the soldiers' costume and weapons engraved in Chinese traditional designs, as well as renowned Chinese kung fu.

"Although the framework of the story and the design of figures in the animation are decided by our foreign counterparts, we tried our best to bring Chinese details to the film, not only in the design but also with traditional Chinese values. For instance, King Ragis didn't kill King Tor because we endowed Ragis with the traditional Chinese concept of 'no more killing'" said Zheng Lingzi, the layout manager of IDMT.

This animation made in China seems more like a technical experiment than a blockbuster. "The significance of this movie is to make the world realize there is a company proficient in 3D computer animation in China, so we should have a positive attitude toward the film," said Jia Leilei, vice president of The Academy of Arts, China Institute for Film and Television.



Scary: the movie poster

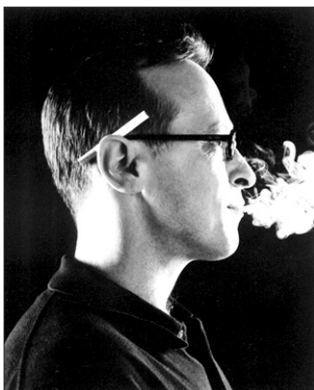


King Ragis



Scenes from the Moebius Strip

Me Talk Pretty One Day



David Sedaris

By David Sedaris

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Back Bay Books (June 5, 2001)

Language: English

David Sedaris became a star autobiographer on public radio, onstage in New York, and on bestseller lists, mostly on the strength of *SantaLand Diaries*, a scathing, hilarious account of his stint as a *Christmas elf* at Macy's. (It's in two separate collections, both worth owning, *Barrel Fever* and the Christmas-themed *Holidays on Ice*.) Sedaris's caustic gift has not deserted him in his fourth book, which mines poignant comedy from his peculiar childhood in North Carolina, his bizarre career path, and his move with his lover to France. Though his anarchic inclination to digress is his glory, Sedaris does have a theme in these reminiscences: the inability of humans to communicate. The title is his rendition in transliterated English of how he and his fellow students of French in Paris mangle the Gallic language. In the essay *Jesus Shaves*, he and his classmates from many nations try to convey the concept of Easter to a Moroccan Muslim. "It is a party for the little boy of God," says one. "Then he be die one day on two... morsels of... lumber," says another. Sedaris muses on the disputes between his Protestant mother and his father, a Greek Orthodox whose Easter fell on a different day. Other essays explicate his deep kinship with his eccentric mom and absurd alienation from his IBM-exec dad: "To me, the greatest mystery of science continues to be that a man could father six children who shared absolutely none of his interests." It all adds up to the most distinctively skewed autobiography since Spalding Gray's *Swimming to Cambodia*.

Life's not funny, it's a day by day Promethian struggle against the world and the rest of humanity, and just when you think you're getting somewhere, you find you're flat on your face with *The Man putting the boot in for good measure*. Where does Sedaris find humor in that?

"*Me Talk Pretty One Day* opens on a most popular movie premise: an agent arriving to pick up a supposed wrongdoer. After learning the agent is actually a speech therapist sicked on young David's lisp, a hysterical rendition of speech therapy classes, or a series of "de-gayng" tactics as Sedaris explains, ensues. Then, we are launched into a story of father Sedaris's desire to make his kids into musical prodigies, where after an uneventful few lessons our narrator decides to dazzle his midget teacher, Mr Mancini, with a less than successful singing number. Mr Mancini becomes unnerved by David's flamboyancy, and Sedaris shares again another awkward yet laugh out loud segment of his life growing up gay, Greek and misunderstood in Raleigh, North Carolina."

— Laura Donnelly,
Bookreporter.com

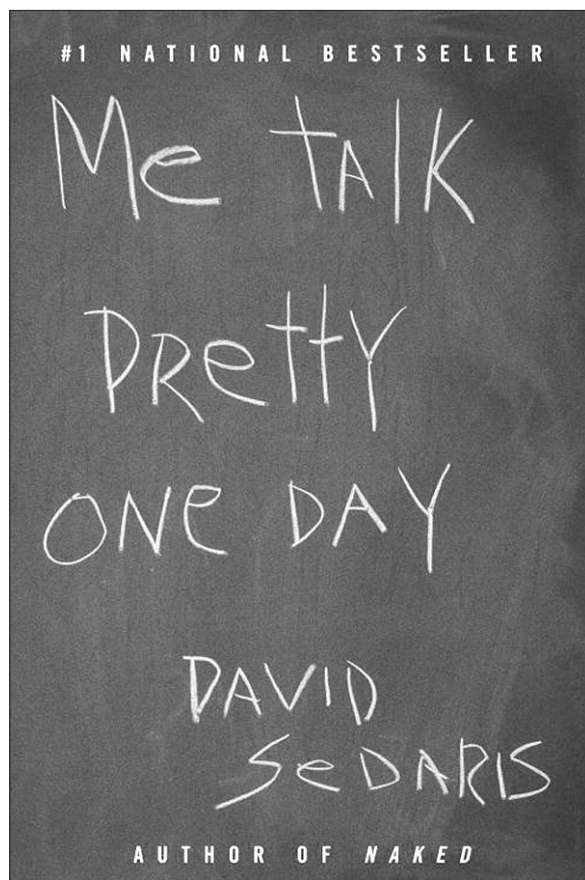
I suppose if you didn't laugh you'd cry. Does he pull it off?

"Experiences this enjoyable are usually illegal.... If wit were measured in people, David Sedaris would be China: His talent is that huge."

—Denver Rocky Mountain News.

That's interesting. Because if people were measured in wit, that would make America Andorra. And Sedaris is American...

"Sedaris glitters as one of



the wittiest writers around ... a beacon of comic sanity in a terminally chic world."

—Entertainment Weekly

Ok, so he's witty. He's about as witty as witty gets. Tell me something else already.

"His most sidesplitting work to date.... The simple, effortless comic build of these stories had me howling in the airport, my hands shaking, my eyes glistening with tears."

—Austin Chronicle

Didn't anyone ever tell you that in writing it's more powerful to 'show' than

making me feel better about myself by allowing me to laugh at Sedaris and his family?

"Few readers are likely to experience pangs of recognition when reading his portrait of his younger brother, who calls himself the Rooster, speaks exclusively in ghetto profanity and has an inexplicably close bond with his mild-mannered father:

"When my father complained about his aching feet, the Rooster set down his two-liter bottle of Mountain Dew and removed a fistful of prime rib from his mouth, saying, "Bitch, you need to have them ugly-ass bunions shaved down is what you need to do. But you can't do shit about it tonight, so lighten up, mother-fucker."

All eyes went to my father, who chuckled, saying only, "Well, I guess you have a point."

—Greg Villepique,
Salon.com

Ha ha... 'motherfucker'... Anyway, anything I might not like?

"If there is one flaw in this collection, it is that so many of these essays were written to be read aloud, and as anyone who has heard Sedaris read on NPR's *This American Life* knows, much of his humor rests in the delivery – a quality difficult to convey on the page, rendering merely amusing some essays like *The Youth in Asia*, a piece that is side-splitting when performed. Yet overall, these essays are funny, very funny, and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, with its complex, witty and audacious humor shows off Sedaris's talents as a mordant satirist."

— Jessica Chapel,
Flakmag.com
(By Gareth George)

Local shelf

"Giant" Size



By Andy Warhol
Phaidon Press Limited,
624 pages, 1125 yuan

"*Giant*" Size is a spectacular visual biography of the life and career of Andy Warhol. Weighing in at 15 pounds, this enormous book is packed with 2,000 images and documents, many rare or previously unpublished.

The book depicts the major events, people, works and moments in the artist's life told in chronological order by subject. As Warhol almost never threw anything away (from restaurant receipts to postcards), the featured material in the book has been painstakingly compiled.

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Contact: 6400 4427

Lord of the Flies

By William Golding
Riverhead Books, 256 pages, 110 yuan

When a plane crashes on a deserted island, with the only survivors a pack of adolescent schoolboys, what follows is at first a riotous testing of the limits of their newfound freedom. However, soon their exuberance gives way to something much darker, as fear begins to seep in, and as rescue seems a more and more distant hope, the fragile society the boys have created plunges into chaos.

The ultimate novel of dystopia, *Lord of the Flies* ticks as many boxes as it defies attempts to classify it. At once a thriller, an adventure story, an allegory, and a political treatise, the novel is disturbing and terrifying in its exposure of the basest of human instincts.

A Thousand Years of Good Prayers

By Yiyun Li
Randomhouse, 205 pages, 185 yuan

Brilliant and original, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* illuminates how mythology, history, and culture intersect with personality to create fate. From the bustling heart of Beijing to a fast-food restaurant in Chicago to the barren expanse of Inner Mongolia, it reveals worlds both foreign and familiar.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

(By Han Manman)



Scoop up some Romana ice cream on Wangfujing

By Chu Meng

Both of Romana's newly opened stores are located on Wangfujing Street, the busiest commercial center in town. Most of the ingredients and equipment are from Italy, meaning you're destined for a delicious sweet, dense creamy treat in the tradition of Italian gelato.

Romana features over 20 flavors and also provides low-fat and sugar-free ice cream for those who prefer a guilt free indulgence. Seasonal market-fresh fruits and vegetables play a healthy role in the ingredients, reducing the fat content to four to six percent compared with standard ice cream.

Two scoops are just 12 yuan, while whopping four scoops go for 20 yuan, which might not make for such a pretty cone. Because there is not as much cream to keep the scoops solid and iced, four different flavors would probably melt and mix together very quickly, making your delicate choices into quite a mess. Three fruit-flavors with bright blue, pink and green colors are the most popular, but I cannot help worrying about E numbers.

Fruit shakes are also available and ice cream can be taken home in special containers.

Romana

Where: (Newest branch) B1 Oriental Plaza, Wangfujing, Dongcheng
Tel: 8518 0201

B-146, Xin Dong An Market, 138 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel 6522 1161

Open: 9am-9:30pm

Photo provided by Romana



Cream of the crop at Gustomenta

By Chu Meng

I always felt that the coolest place in Beijing was Sanlitun Nanjie bar street but sadly it was pulled down in the name of development. The original Sanlitun bar street is still around but now it is lined with fashionable distractions. One of these is Gustomenta, a gourmet ice cream and dessert emporium right on Sanlitun Beijie.

My Italian friends complain to me that getting great gourmet gelato in Beijing is not easy, especially the freshly made variety. Gustomenta is the exception. They have an enormous menu of homemade flavors and the portions are quite reasonable. The chef and owner, Luigi Vedovelli draws from his experience making ice cream in his hometown of Verona. He produces all of the gelato for Gustomenta in a space right behind the Loft, a few blocks away.

Authentic gelato costs 12 yuan per scoop. With upwards of 30 mouth-watering flavors, including black cherry, flor di latte, and chocolate chip, you may need more than one bowl.

Gustomenta

Where: 24 Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang

Open: 9am-1am the next day

Tel: 6417 8890

Photo provided by Gustomenta

By Chu Meng

The History of Ice Cream, written by the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers, notes that the origins of ice cream can be traced back to at least the 4th century BC. Early references include the Roman emperor Nero (37-68 AD) who ordered ice to be combined with fruit toppings, and King Tang (1675-1645 BC) of the Shang dynasty who had a method of creating ice and milk concoctions. Later ice cream was probably brought from China far across the ocean to Europe and, over time, recipes for ices, sherbets, and milk ices evolved and were to be found served at the fashionable Italian and French royal courts.

Now that this summer contains a double-July period in the Chinese lunar calendar, it means double the number of hot weather days, and double cravings for ice cream. You should have ample excuse to taste the frosty fare brought back from the around the world to China centuries later. Great choices include Italian gelato, New Zealand pure dairy or Japanese green tea ice mousse.

What's the story, knickerbocker glory?



Mondo Gelato: my icy Italian world

By Gan Tian

Gelato, which means ice cream in Italian, has its own unique recipe for cooling and refreshing parched mouths. Unlike other North American style ice creams, gelato is not frozen as deeply and contains less air and less fat, resulting in a fresher, purer taste with a light and creamy texture. The shop also provides sorbetto, a non-dairy, non-fat, fruit dessert. It is a lighter, healthier cool treat for fruit lovers.

You can also enjoy gelato cake - two choices of the your favorite ice cream make up this great tasting treat. It comes in size of 18cm and 22cm.

Mondo Gelato

Where: F1, COFCO Plaza, 8, Jianguomennei

Tel: 8511 5011

Cost: 20 yuan for ice cream; 195 yuan for gelato cake 18cm; 295 yuan for gelato cake 22cm

Other chains:

Lufthansa shop: fifth floor, Lufthansa Center, 52, Liangmaqiao Road

New World shop: 2nd floor, section A, New World Shopping Center, 3, Chongwenmenwai

Oriental Plaza shop: Oriental Plaza, 1, Dongchang'anjie

Fullink shop: first floor Fullink Plaza, 18, Chaoyangmenwai Dajie

Photo provided by Mondo Gelato

Sweet dreams at New Zealand Natural

By Gan Tian

As the name suggests, New Zealand Natural offers cool consumers New Zealand style ice cream. This shop is in Xidan, one of Beijing's most prosperous shopping areas, although the noisy environment makes it a less than ideal place for relaxing and chatting and you can't even find a seat during weekends. Different from, and allegedly better than other ice cream shops, New Zealand Natural provides its ice cream without artificial colors, which explains the

'natural' in the now unambiguous name.

The most strongly recommended is Chocolate Ecstasy, which mixes fruit juice, chocolate and cream, costing you only 18 yuan. Just as the name implies, it will make you feel really rather good. Boysenberry Dream (28 yuan), containing fresh cherries and peaches, will hit you with different fruit flavors and perhaps prompt a reverie or two.

New Zealand Natural

Where: B1, Capital Times

Square, Xidan, Xicheng

Tel: 8391 3513

Photo provided by New Zealand Natural

Bellagio: Taiwanese breeze

By He Jianwei

A bowl of Bellagio Breeze is for ice cream animals - looking like a tower built of various beans with condensed milk poured on top of shaved ice, it is a slightly sweet ice cream decorated with fresh pineapple from Taiwan. It's inexpensive but substantial as one bowl costs only 29 yuan and can be shared with two or more friends.

One of their famous Taiwan snacks is a fresh mango smoothie stirred with ice. It does indeed taste smooth and full of the scent of mango. One cup has the reasonable price of 28 yuan.

If you don't like creamy desserts then a green tea smoothie, a unique

invention of Bellagio, might be a better bet. The green tea is imported from Japan, mixed with ice and decorated with red beans. A strong scent of green tea will disperse the heat of summer. Again, 29 yuan.

Bellagio

Xiaoyunlu Branch:

Where: 35 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-4am

Gongti Branch:

Where: 6 Gongtixilu

Open: 11am-5am

Yayuncun Branch:

Where: 4th Building, District 2,

Anhuibeili

Open: 11am-4am



Photo provided by Bellagio

20% off for students

Students and teachers can enjoy a 20% discount at Lian Fang Yoga Gymnasium (Kaijia Hotel, Dongtiying, Fengtai) until August 31. For details, call 6766 5034.

**30-50% off**

Vero Moda brand clothes are 30-50% off at Modern Plaza (Dang Dai Shangcheng, 40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until August 31. For details, call 6257 6688.

**50% off**

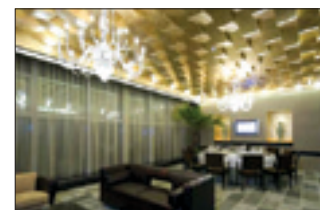
Eat at Shan Shui Jian Xian Rou Fang (88 Jiapu Donglu, Fengtai) and enjoy a 50% discount until August 31. The restaurant specializes in hot pot. For details, call 6752 3181.

**50% off for students**

Students and senior citizens can enjoy a 50% discount at Beijing Aquarium (18 Gaoliaoggiao Xiejie, Xicheng). The 100 yuan tickets will be half priced until August 30. For details, call 6217 6655.

**50 yuan voucher**

Spend over 200 yuan at Ling Yi Ling restaurant (Global Trade Center, 36 Beisanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang) and get a 50 yuan voucher until August 31 (not valid for beverages, seafood or cigarettes). This luxury restaurant specializes in Cantonese dishes. For details, call 5825 6666.

**30 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Dongfang Lao-fuji roast duck restaurant (24 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) and get 30 yuan voucher until August 31 (not valid for beverages, cigarettes and special dishes). For details, call 6515 8750.

**15-22% off**

Eat at T6 hot and spicy hot pot restaurant (Xiandaicheng 88 Jianguolu, Chaoyang) from 11:30am until 2pm and enjoy a 15% discount and 22% off before 9pm. For details, call 8580 6014.

**30% discount**

Newly opened Ka Bi spa (north gate of Si De Park, Jiangtailu, Chaoyang) is holding a discount period. For details, call 5154 4800.

**80 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Huayu Shopping Center (2 Zhongyuancun Nandajie, Haidian) and get an 80 yuan voucher until August 20. For details, call 8251 1095.

100 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Zhongyou Shopping Mall (176 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng District) and get a 100 yuan coupon until this weekend. Zhongyou Shopping mall has many famed brands from suits to sports clothes. For details, call 6601 8899

10% off

The only prison-style restaurant in Beijing (Xiaoyun Qiao, Dongsihuan, Chaoyang District) is in their discount period of 10% off. You can even try to name a dish, it will be adopted if the name is good enough. For details call 8451 3456 and 845 15678.

(By Terence Lu)

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French Open champions: Nadal and Henin will see you this September in Beijing

2006 China Open



September 9 -24 Beijing Tennis Center

Nadal - Prince of Clay

Nalbandian - Power Boy from South America

Henin - Skill Queen

Vaidisova - Rising Star

Davenport - Tennis "Big Girl"

Organizers:General Administration of Sport
Beijing Municipal Government**Co-organizers:**Tennis Administrative Center of General
Administration of Sport
Beijing Sports Bureau
China Open
Promotions Limited**Partners:**Beijing Youth Daily 北京青年报
Tom Group Limited 汤姆集团

Nadal



Nalbandian

Davenport

Davydenko



Henin

Vaidisova

Let's get the party started



Black-white hat



Jeans miniskirt



Jeans vest



Nonsense Black T-shirt



New York T-shirt



Cartoon T-shirt

Headwear

Black-white hat

Style yourself as 'moody, intellectual hip hop person' with this hat and its images from classic film. Not very bling, really.

Price: 98 yuan

Available: A142, QQ Fashion, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Miniskirt

Girls like hip hop too you know. And they also like miniskirts. Hang on a minute – what about a denim miniskirt with super bling diamonds all over it? Did someone say "Fergie?" That's right my man; as in "sexy as". Sweet.

Jeans Miniskirt

Price: 220 yuan

Available: A22, Fourth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

Jeans vest

Price: 390 yuan

Available: A142, QQ Fashion, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

T-shirts

Nonsense Black T-shirt

Black says "Get out of my way!", and the lurid green lettering says "I'm out of control, put me in a mental home or something!" But then the writing says "I need some help with my English." That's what hip hop's all about – stick it to The Man, starting with the dictionary. Out there!

Price: 120 yuan

Available: A013, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

New York T-shirt

New York. The place where hip hop was born, probably behind a dumpster somewhere in Harlem. It still buys clothes that it's mum says it will grow into. It never knew its father, and yours won't want to know you when you climb into this. Rebellious or what?

Price: 120 yuan

Available: A013, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

Cartoon T-shirts

Hip hoppers like things that are bright and shiny, just like magpies. Magpies are dull looking monochrome birds. Perhaps hip hoppers are actually 21st century clowns crying on the inside about how dull they are. Actually, they do look a bit like clowns...

Price: 180 yuan each

Available: A205-206, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

By Gan Tian

Hip hop: the music *de jour* of those who like their innuendo straightforward and their ass shaking all over the place. The Black Eyed Peas' Beijing tour only served to remind us what most of us already knew: that Beijing's love affair with hip hop is, in the words of that most un-hip hop of non hip hop singers Karen Carpenter, only just begun...



Dragon Jeans

Photos by Gan Tian



Hoodie Coat

Men's fashion

Hoodie

In the UK, you can't wear hoodies into shops as they make it easy to steal things. This makes hoodies seriously street, like just by putting one on, you become some kind of gangsta with 'hos and an AK. I wanted a brightly colored one, but the manager of the shop told me that dark ones are more hardcore. Like, he's cool, but I mean, he works in a clothes shop...

Price: 299 yuan

Available: A205-206, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

Dragon Jeans

Want scaly things climbing your legs? Want to look like you're out of a Wu Tang Clan video without attaching wires? Check it!

Price: 299 yuan

Available: A205-206, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center



Red ring-ring necklace



Brooches

Accessories

Red ring-ring necklace

Red. It's sexy and you know it. Wear it as a bracelet, an anklet, or separate to make napkin rings for when yo' homies come round for fried chicken. But never, NEVER wear it round your neck. I pity the fool who doesn't know that his (or her) hip hop stylin' neck is the province of bling alone. Fact!

Price: 180 yuan

Available: A22, Fourth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

Brooch

Think jewelry is for nancy boys? You think P Diddy with his brooches and diamonds and cream suits and fur coats thinks he looks like the queen they never quite got round to writing into *Dynasty*? You think ladies like J Lo think he looks like their grandmother? Think again, sucka!

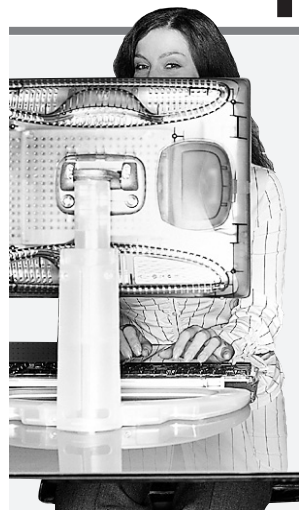
Price: 49-159 yuan

Available: A205-206, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center

Tips on getting a cool hip hop look

1. The key element is attitude. Get your own and keep your beady eyes off of mine. Don't be coveting another man's attitude. Sucka.
2. Don't be afraid to wear flashy colored suits. And if you are afraid, try to appear like you aren't.
3. T-shirts with big logos, visors, and opulent pieces of diamond-studded jewelry are the best choices. The look should say; "I'm seriously money, but I got so many 'hos and deals going down I never have time to try my clothes on."
4. For female hip hoppers, go for low waisted trousers that emphasize the hips (which should be jiggling at all times.)

Computers are evil. Fight back



By Qiu Jiaoning

Computers, once the darlings of the modern world, now represent the flickering face of office perjury. Apparently some people even use computers for recreation, and not just Luddite rockstars throwing laptops from their thatch roofed highrise hotel rooms. Now some genius has turned up telling us that computers are evil and dangerous. Like, tell us something we didn't know.

Fortunately, the said expert then proceeded to tell us some things we didn't know. Hope these tips help you regain friendly relations with your desktop chum.



Reading the screen

Any task that involves staring at a computer screen, no matter how exciting or interesting, leads to physical fatigue. You may be quite happy to press on with work, but your body may have other ideas. The most common physical complaints are eyestrain and problems with vision (blurring and itching being typical). Headaches are also a product of prolonged staring at a screen, according to Dr Han Xiaohong from Beijing Ciji Health Checkup Chain Institution.

1. Adjust the brightness and contrast controls on the screen to suit the lighting conditions in the room.

2. Make sure the screen surface is clean.

3. In setting up software, choose an option that makes large enough to read easily on your screen, when you are sitting in a normal, comfortable working position. Select colors that are easy on the eye (avoid red text on a blue background, or vice-versa).

4. Individual characters on the screen should be sharply focused and should not flicker or move. If they do, the VDU may need servicing or adjustment.

5. Remember to look away from the screen when you don't need to use it.

Keyboard and mouse

Wrist and hand problems are common when using computers, according to Dr Han. For example, 'floating' your hand over the mouse for long periods leads to strain on the ligaments in the back of the hand and the wrist. Over time, health problems may occur as a result of high repetition of hand movements, forceful typing, or having bent wrists whilst using the keyboard. Carpal tunnel syndrome is a painful condition that affects the wrists and hands following pressure to the median nerve. Numbness may also be experienced in one or both

hands and even the simplest of tasks involving the hands becomes a painful and sometimes impossible activity.

1. Adjust your keyboard to get a good keying position. A space in front of the keyboard is sometimes helpful for resting the hands and wrists when not keying.

2. Try to keep your wrists straight. Keep a soft touch on the keys and don't overstretch your fingers. Good keyboard technique is important.

3. Position the mouse within easy reach, so it can be used with the wrist straight. Sit upright and close to the desk, so you don't have to work with your mouse arm stretched. Move the keyboard out of the way if it is not being used.

4. Support your forearm on the desk, and don't grip the mouse too tightly.

5. Rest your fingers lightly on the buttons and do not press them hard.

Posture

Bad posture is enemy number one. Long periods of time at the computer often lead to pain in the lumbar region of the back. Neck and shoulder problems also result from poor seating and the poor organization of equipment on the desk (stretching for the telephone or files), according to Dr Han.

1. Do not sit in the same position for long periods. Make sure you change your posture as often as practicable.

2. Some movement is desirable, but avoid repeated stretching to reach things you need. You should be able to reach the keyboard and mouse whilst bending your elbows at 90 degrees, with your shoulders relaxed.

3. Don't tuck the telephone between your shoulder and ear so that you can type and talk on the phone at the same time. This common procedure is very

aggravating for your neck, shoulders, and arms.

4. Your back should be straight and the top of the monitor should be just below eye level.

5. Don't sit on the edge of the chair and lean forward. In addition, sitting with the legs crossed causes uneven weight on each buttock and strain on back muscles.

Comfort

Don't be tempted to sit at the computer during breaks; much better to get your circulation going and step out for some fresh air.

Many jobs provide opportunities to take a break from the screen, for instance, to do some filing or photocopying. Make use of them. Frequent short breaks are better than fewer long ones.

Exercise is a great tonic and it can be as simple as stretching your arms and legs and flexing your back, neck and hands whilst sitting in front of the monitor.

Try different arrangements of keyboard, screen, mouse and documents to find the best arrangement for you. A document holder may help you avoid awkward neck and eye movements.

Many office workers drink too much tea and coffee, which has a diuretic action, so water is the best choice. Remember that offices with several computers can make the air feel very dry.



Put your best face forward

Dr Fiona Chang from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicines:

Time and gravity take their toll on facial beauty. Tissues lose their youthful tone and sag. The best facelift surgery is one which appears natural and leaves nothing to cover up, either by hair or makeup. If you want to appear as if you've aged incredibly

gracefully, as SMAS (superficial musculoaponeurotic system) face lift, the most common and popular face-lift procedure, is highly recommended.

SMAS refers to an area of musculature on the face. This muscular system is manipulated during facial cosmetic surgery and is often performed as part of a rhytidectomy or face-lift.

The operation to preform the SMAS face lift is designed to reduce sagging and wrinkling in the face and neck. It can also correct problems around the eyelids, at the corners of the mouth or the creases at the lips. It may be chosen for one of two reasons: to help relatively young individuals to appear to stay young,

or to assist one who is already wrinkled or whose skin sags to appear younger and fresher.

The surgeon makes an incision at the hairline and separates the skin from the underlying tissue and muscles. The muscles are tightened and excess fat and tissue, such as fat under the chin and neck, are removed. Generally physicians predict improved

long-term results.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Where: Room 1008, E-Tower No.12 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang Free consultation in Chinese, English and Japanese

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www.bioscor.com.cn

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

A necessary station on the ancient Silk Road, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region is on the upper reaches of the Yellow River in the western part of China. The summer time in Ningxia is shorter than in other regions, and because of its altitude (above 1,000 meters), the summer heat rarely bothers the people here, which makes Ningxia a wonderful place to escape the damp, scorched city.

Ningxia — a cool journey to ancient ruins

Xixia Emperor Tombs



Xixia Emperor Tombs

Xixia Emperor Tombs site, the biggest site of Xixia Dynasty culture, is at the eastern mountain foot of Helan Mountain in the western outskirts, about 35 kilometers away from downtown Yinchuan, capital city of Ningxia. The site covers 50 square meters and includes tombs of the nine emperors of Xixia (Western Xia) Dynasty (AD 1038-1227) and more than 140 tombs for princes, dukes and ministers.

At present, light and sound facilities are installed into the tomb sites. When night falls, the whole tomb site will shine with yellow and blue light. Visitors can enter the site by carriages from the east entrance to tour the whole site.

Open: tomb area opens from 8am to 7pm; museums open from 8am to 9pm
Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 0951-611 9590

Get there: Take a coach from Yinchuan to Bayin, which passes Xixia Emperor Tombs site. It will take you about one hour to get there. A more convenient way is to take a No. 2 coach and get off at the stop of Xixia Square, then go to the site by taxi.

Helan Rock Painting

Ancient people used to use rock paintings to record their lives. In Helan Mountain area, to the northwest of Yinchuan city, tens of thousands of rock paintings were discovered in 1969. These paintings show the ancient people's lives, their hunting, sacrifices, war, and entertainment. The paintings also include animal patterns such as sheep, cows, horses, and tigers and many abstract symbols.



Helan Rock Painting: God of the Sun

The most representative painting in Helan rock paintings is the painting of the God of the Sun. It was carved on the rock more than 40 meters above the land. The God of the Sun was carved in human form, indicating people's worship of the sun in ancient times.

Open: 8am to 7pm

Ticket: 25 yuan

Tel: 0951-410 8346

Get there: Take the coach from Nanmen Square, Yinchuan, to Zhenbeipu Town and then take a taxi from Zhenbeipu Town to Helankou, which will cost you about 15 yuan.

Shahu Lake

Shahu Lake is at Pingluo County, 47 kilometers from Yinchuan. The southern part of Shahu Lake is covered with sand and the northern part is water. Great areas of bulrush grow in the lake, with dozens of kinds of birds.



Shahu Lake is at Pingluo County

Millions of birds inhabit here. Swans, sea-gulls, white cranes and bitterns live and feed their offspring here. Visitors can watch these birds from the bird-watching tower. The water-lily area is at the east part of the lake, covering an area of 6.67 million square meters. On the sand, there's certain area where artists make sand carvings of pyramids and sphinxes, duplicating the style of those seen in Egypt.

Open: 8am to 6pm

Ticket: 36 yuan

Tel: 0952-668 4025

Get there: There is a special coach from Nanmen Square in Yinchuan to Shahu Lake, Pingluo County. The ticket price is 10 yuan and it will take you about one and a half hours to get there.

Food:

Huixiaochi (Braised snacks)

Huixiaochi is a famous traditional snack in Ningxia. It is cooked by frying mutton with eggs, and served together with vegetables and mutton soup. The taste is soft and fresh.

Yanmianrourou (Steamed oat pastes)

People cook Yanmianrourou by steaming pastes made of stir-fried naked oat powder. Then, eating them with cooked leek, spinach or a garlic bulb.

Huiyangzasui

(Braised chopped sheep entrails)

This is another famous traditional snack in Ningxia. It is cooked with chopped cooked entrails of sheep. The taste is spicy.

Accommodation:

Ningxia International Hotel (four stars)

Address: 365 Beijingdong Road, Yinchuan

Tel: 0951-672 8688

Shahu Hotel (three stars)

Where: 22, Wenhua Street, Yinchuan

Tel: 0951-501 2128

Changcheng Hotel (two stars)

Where: 388 Jiefangxi Street, Yinchuan

Tel: 0951-502 2808

(By Jackie Zhang)



Palace waitress sculpture at the Xixia Emperor Tombs



A part of the Great Wall in the Kingdom of Xixia

CFP Photos

The European Capital of Culture program has replaced the original European City of Culture program, which began in 1985. Both fall under the remit of the European Union (EU). Being designated as the European Capital of Culture for 2006, Patras, the third largest city of Greece, will open its doors to the world this year.

Patras: European capital of culture

History

The city was named after Patreas of ancient Greek mythology, the son of the Spartan Preugeni, who led the emigration of hundreds of Achaeans from Lakonia to the country of Ionians, which was later called Achaia.

Patras was first inhabited during the third millennium BC and reached its first peak during the Mycenaean period (1580 - 1100 B.C.). During the 5th century B.C., Patras was organized politically and in 280 B.C. played a leading role in the foundation of the Achaean League, a voluntary union of initially four and finally 12 Achaean cities.

Under Roman rule, Patras enjoyed special benefits. The city presented a significant development until the end of the 3rd century, when, after its partial destruction by an earthquake, it entered a phase of decadence.

During the Byzantine Empire, the city rose and fell, in tune with the historic variations of the Empire and its surrounding area. From the 13th century, Patras was occupied in turn by the Franks, the Byzantines, the Turks and the Venetians, alternating between periods of prosperity and total abandon, especially after the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821, until its liberation, in 1928.

Fortress of Patras



Patras Fortress

The fortress of Patras was built during the second half of the 6th century, on top of the ruins of the ancient acropolis. It is situated on a low hill of Panachaikos Mountain, at a distance of approximately 800 meters from the coast. Its walls surround an area of about 22,725 square meters and is constituted by a triangular outer enclosure, loaded with towers and ramparts, initially protected by a deep moat, and an inside enclosure that raises high in the northeast corner and is also surrounded by a moat.

It was built by Justinian, after the devastating earthquake in 551 using material from ancient buildings for the defense of the region and its citizens. In the centuries that followed and up to World War II, it has been in constant use for the defense of the city, but also as an administrative and military center.

Since 1973 the Castle has been under the supervision of the 6th Committee of Byzantine Antiquities. In the theater (640 seats) that lies at the interior enclosure, cultural celebrations take place every summer.

In a special notch on the wall, is the engraved body and head of a male statue of the Roman Ages. This disfigured statue gained extraordinary dimensions in the eyes of Patras' people. It became the ghost of the city, 'Patrinella'.

Tradition says that it was a woman disguised

as a man during the Turkish Occupation that preserves the city against epidemics and cries in the night, when one famous personality of Patras dies.

Open: 8am-6pm (except Mondays)

Free entrance

Tel: 0030-2610623390

Ancient Odeum



Roman Odeum of Patras

On the West side of the acropolis, at the upper town, lays the Roman Odeum of Patras, erected prior to the Athens Odeum. (Herodeum, 160 AD).

Earthquakes, wars and conquerors had destroyed the Odeum over the centuries and covered it with other buildings and ground. The Odeum saw daylight again in 1889, when there have been some works of digging to collect ground for the banking up of the port.

Many decades went by until the process of restoration begun, which was completed in 1956, the year that the Odeum regained its initial shape. On the same decade, the surroundings were turned into an archaeological site, housing the exhibition of sarcophagi, mosaics and other ancient findings.

The Odeum contains all the basic parts of a theater as well as 23 rows of seats. Its capacity is 2,300.

After the establishment of Patras International Festival, The ancient Odeum constitutes its main venue, welcoming the summer months and top Greek

and international bands.

Open: 8am-2:30pm (except Mondays)

Free entrance

Tel: 0030-2610220829

Achaia Clauss



Achaia Clauss

The Achaia Clauss winery is on a green-clad hill, eight kilometers southeast of Patras center, distinguished as one of the best tourist sites of the region.

Its founder, Bavarian Gustav Clauss, arrived in Patras in 1854 to work in a German company dealing with the export of raisins. During an excursion, he visited this region that charmed him with its natural beauty. He bought a small vineyard just to produce some wine for self-consumption, and ended up establishing today's Castle-Winery. In 1861 he founded Achaia Clauss Co. and the excellent wines, including Mavrodaphne of Patras, conquered both the Greek and international markets.

The stone buildings, the large oaken carved barrels with one century-old Mavrodaphne, the traditional cellar where visitors are welcomed as well as the unique landscape with the breathtaking view attract approximately 200,000 visitors per year.

Open: 9am to 5pm

Free entrance

Tel: 0030-2610325051

(By Zhang Nan)

Get there:

Go to Athens by air and then transfer to Patras by train, or by coach.

By coach:

Arrive at Athens International Airport and take the bus X93 to Kifissos Intercity Bus Station, which will take you about 50 minutes. Tickets cost 3.2 euro.

You can also arrive at the Kifissos Intercity Bus Station by taxi in about 30 to 45 minutes for approximately 20 euros.

At the Kifissos Intercity Bus station, buses to Patras depart frequently, usually every one or half an hour. The trip to Patras takes two and a half hours with the express bus and three with the normal bus. Every other bus is express.

By train:

In Athens, the Peloponisos Railway Station serves southwestern Greece including Patras. It's not far from the center of the city.

In Patras, the railway station is located in the town center, near the harbor and the coach station. There are daily services to and from Athens as well as all the major offshore cities of the Peloponneses. The trip from Athens to Patras lasts about 3.5 hours by Intercity express train, and costs 13.8 euros.



The port of Patras

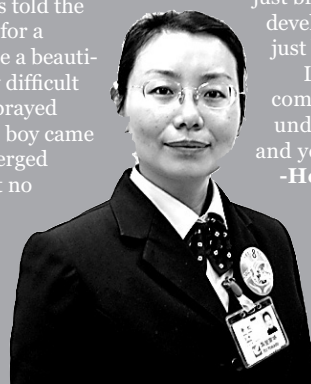
By Han Manman

When training Ito Yokado's new recruits, I always told the students a story about a butterfly: it was nearly time for a caterpillar to wriggle free from its cocoon and become a beautiful butterfly. However, breaking the cocoon was very difficult and painful. The caterpillar twisted and turned and prayed that someone could help him. Then, a warm-hearted boy came and helped to cut open the cocoon. The butterfly emerged thinking itself very lucky. It shook its wings to fly but no matter how hard it tried, it failed again and again. The butterfly didn't know that he would never fly

up into the sky. The innocent boy also didn't know that he had just brought disaster to the butterfly, destroying its natural development. Sometimes, trying to avoid difficulties will just bring you a bigger problem later.

Learn to accept challenges and suffer pains without complaining, you should tell yourself that you are just undergoing a change to become a beautiful butterfly and your future will be bright and beautiful!

-Heng Hong, HR director of Ito Yokado



Ito Yokado:

from caterpillar to beautiful butterfly

Comments from Heng:

Yuanyuan was a sales assistant at first. At that time, our new branch had just opened in Daxing district and she was assigned to the new branch. The new supermarket is not like the old branch and everyone has the same start. Yuanyuan was very optimistic and very forceful. She had the initiative to learn the supermarket-related knowledge and had strong team adaptability. No matter how hard the work we gave her, she could do it quickly and well. Among the interns that joined our company at the same time with her, she was the first to be promoted to a team leader. The constantly changing environment helped her become more mature and also showed her potential to go far.



Wang Yuanyuan: obtained a degree in Business English from Beijing Light Industry Technical College. She joined Ito Yokado Department of Merchandise after a three months internship.

What impressed me a lot about Ito Yokado before I worked there was that the managers stood together with the staff by the supermarket doors at opening and closing time every day, bowed and said 'Welcome' to the customers. Working at Ito Yokado for two years, I've come to really understand the meaning of 'Welcome'.

My first internship was in the underwear section of the clothes department. This section sells underwear and pajamas. My work was to understand all the product names and locations and sell them. Very curious about this work, I came to the company very early on the first day. Listening to my faltering and unprofessional introduction, a customer bought some pajama pants worth 19 yuan. This was the first product I had sold in my life; you can't imagine the feeling - really fantastic! This successful sale made me completely forget the embarrassing moments when I introduced it to the customer: "What size? - You can try if you like. Is it ok for my waist? - Maybe you can wear it. Will it shrink after washing? - I guess not."

My first internship week passed with excitement and satisfaction, however, things changed after that. Everyday I needed to describe, 'Welcome' hundreds of times to the customers but none of them responded with even a smile. In order to sell underwear, I needed to introduce it lots of times to the customers but they often just walked off. They thought it natural not to give a response or smile to a salesperson. My feet swelled after a long time standing; my waist started to ache. I began to complain, and I needed comfort. On campus, everyone showed concern to me but here, no one cared.

The manager arranged a meeting for our interns. He told us there is a sentence printed on the employee's salary slips every month, "Please remember, our salary is always paid by the customer. Remember that and treat the customer like family. That is the meaning of 'welcome'."

I adjusted myself to the work soon and bravely faced the hard times and challenges that new work gave me because I knew I was just experiencing a metamorphosis to a beautiful butterfly.

Comments from Heng: We have a good cooperation with Wang Jun's school. Each year, Ito Yokado does a campus recruitment tour and we go to her school. I have an impression of her because when I gave the lecture, her eyes always followed me, which made me believe her to be genuinely interested in our company. This first impression in mind, I recognized her immediately when I interviewed her. At first, she was a shop assistant and then later promoted to team leader. Being a team leader was a hard time for her, she not only needed to do her own work well but also to manage ten team members that came different social backgrounds, not just graduates. In that period, she even thought about resigning, but then gave up the idea because she knew the more she experienced, the more she would grow.



Wang Jun: obtained a degree in Marketing from the University of Science and Technology Beijing. Joined Ito Yokado after a three month internship. In charge of the stationery and toll department.

When Ito Yokado's HR director came to our campus and introduced the company to us with their requirements, I made up my mind to work there.

After four weeks working and two weeks of systematic training, I had a basic knowledge of the company. My role changed in four stages. I was first assigned to the house and home department. My first work was on the slippers counter. I

was in charge of slipper sales, replenishing stock, booking and displaying the stock. At that period, I always got nervous and made mistakes, even in my dreams at night. A month later, I got a chance to work in the warehouse for four months.

Warehouse work is very detailed. From tidying the warehouse, recognizing the merchandise to receiving the goods and returned merchandise, I learned a lot from it. I needed to be very careful and familiar with the merchandise categories and manufacturers. From the learning process, I don't know how many notes I took. From 10 minutes to make out a note to one minute to

make out a note, from unfamiliar with the goods to familiar with them, I spent much time and energy, even tears.

Time passed quickly. Four months later, I received a deputy team leader appointment letter from the house and home department. Although I didn't have management experience, the role is attributed to my four months warehouse study. Being a team leader, I learned much more about the merchandise; how to manage the team and how to make a working schedule.

At that period, I grew quickly. Now, I am in charge of the Stationery and Toll department in Xizhimen branch.



Wang Xin: obtained a degree in Business Administration from Capital University of Economics and Business. Joined Ito Yokado Department of Human Resources Xizhimen Branch after eight months internship.

The first time I came into contact with Ito Yokado was when our school asked us to do a social survey. I chose Ito Yokado to be my target. I was hesitating just at the moment I pushed open the door of the HR office, not because I was nervous but because I couldn't believe the department looked so different from what I had imagined. I thought of an HR department as a very important part of the company, the decoration must be top grade.

After a nervous 20-minute interview with the HR director, I had a basic understanding about Ito Yokado's structure. I also felt the company has a systematic and advanced man-

agement system.

That interview was the most important reason for my application to the Ito Yokado's internship. I had some internships when I was a freshman and sophomore, however, when I finished the senior's course and planned to find an internship job, Ito Yokado was my top choice. Because Ito Yokado is a big enterprise and has a strong management structure, I could learn a lot from it. Another important reason is the HR director who I interviewed before had impressed me a lot. She was very kind, which made me believe that the company employees would be also very kind.

An unforgettable incident during my internship beefed up my will to work for the company. December 2004 was the time for the company to give a year-end bonus. Everyone was happy when they received it. I knew I was just an intern and unqualified to have a bonus.

However, after the meeting, my Japanese boss asked me to his office and gave me a bonus. I was so surprised that I was almost afraid to receive it. My boss said with his broken Chinese, "Take it, and don't say anything." From the translator, I knew the bonus I got was from the boss himself. I couldn't say anything except, "I will work harder!" I had never thought the boss would remember me - a student that had only had a month long internship.

Another thing that impressed me a lot was the big new recruitment ceremony. All the company managers and some government officials joined the ceremony. They assigned me to be the host of the ceremony, which made me feel that the company had high regard for me and trusted me although I was just an intern.

Eight months later, I graduated and signed an agreement with the company without hesitation.

Follow Beijing today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Look, Look, the Interesting Boy

—My Autobiography

By Li Jie



Li Jie is a Student of Beijing Forestry University

There is a place called Jiangxi in the southeast of China where there is a place called Nanchang. Profound culture and atmosphere of revolution gift this place with endless fame, Hero City.

Twenty years ago, thundering cry burst out as a boy was born. Outside the house, white light broke the quietness of raining night. According to the local custom, the baby who was born at night should be covered with a piece of red cloth and given the silver necklace and bracelet. So luckily, I got such dear gift because of my birth at night.

In my childhood, my friends and me usually went to a deserted factory near the river. The melt snow on the road formed uncounted holes. We were surprised by everything behind the door with a rusted lock. Something unexpected happened. Unfortunately the door was forced open and I fell down to the river, pushed by the crowd of the fellows. We did not know there was a river verging against the broken door. Other children were immediately frightened. Freezing water numbed my legs. I was soaped to the skin. Some of them cried out of fear as an elder boy run back to ask for help. Fortunately the river was not deep enough. I struggled

with all my strength by nature and suddenly a strange strength poured into my body. To their surprise, I climbed up the slope. When I stood covered with mud before them, they even said a word. Of course, doubtlessly I was given a good beating by my father, because my parents cared me too much as well as being surprised at my courage to survive.

When I first stepped into the gate of school, I was afraid that I would lose every freedom to do what I liked. In deed, in class I could not endure being forced to do math and recite repeated dull poems. Even going to rest room should be permitted by the teacher. Sleeping in class, I was haunted by fear of discovery.

Quite often, I got some punishment from not being serious on some occasions. I lost my first desk mate because I teased about her untidy dressing. Besides, I climbed the wall of school out of curiosity. Imbued with desire to be a remarkable person, I chose to enter to university. Everything new came into my eyes with my heart beating faster. The first year run into the end with more pains than before and something more encouraging. Now I never admit I am inferior to other. To the future, I say yes.

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see some chinglish signs, please take a picture and send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Cop a load of this!



Photo by Liu Yongli

By Philip Space

The polices warmly warn

Don't keep money in your home.

Elderly residents please be careful of strangers.

Please take good care of your bags when you go shopping or eat in the restaurant.

Please take care of your neighbors.

Please close well your doors and windows as you go out or before sleep.

Please wait for a parking attendant to help you park your vehicle.

We hope these guidelines will help you to have happy and peaceful life.

Police warning signs like the one above can be found in many residential blocks in Beijing. They are rarely written so badly that the message is incomprehensible, but simple errors are nonetheless common. Here we give some pointers to the police on how to improve their signs:

A colon should be inserted in the second line after 'residents' so that it reads 'Elderly residents: please be careful of strangers.' Presumably in the third line, the warning is to take care of your bags whilst eating at restaurants in general rather than at a specific restaurant. So the line should be changed to 'Please take good care of your bags when you go shopping or eat at restaurants.'

The sentence structure in the fifth line is muddled and would be improved by writing 'Please make sure your windows and doors are closed before you go to bed.' Finally, the indefinite article 'a' should have been included in the final line after 'have'; 'We hope these guidelines will help you to have a happy and peaceful life.'

John Gordon's reply

Dear Li Jie,

I really enjoyed reading your story. You seem to have a gift for telling stories in an engaging and creative manner, and I hope that you continue writing. In fact, my first criticism of your piece is that it is a bit rushed. The strongest part of your essay is the part about exploring with your friends and falling into the river, while the other parts of the story feel incomplete in comparison. My suggestion to you is that you either cut the other portions of the story and focus exclusively on your experience with the river, or expand the other parts of your story to give them more detail. Five hundreds words are not enough to tell your entire life story!

Now let's focus on some specific language mistakes that you can correct to allow the reader to focus on the narrative value of your story instead of language errors. For instance, in your first paragraph, you should either say 'an atmosphere of revolution' or 'a revolutionary atmosphere'

rather than just 'atmosphere of revolution'. Also, 'revolution' does not have the same connotations to many Western readers as it does to most Chinese readers, so you might consider either using a different word or explaining what you mean by an 'atmosphere of revolution'.

In your second paragraph, you should add an 'a' before 'thundering cry', because 'cry' is a countable noun. Also, we usually refer to 'the rainy night' instead of 'the raining night'. You refer to 'the baby who was born at night', but since the custom applies to all babies born at night, you should probably say 'babies who are born at night'. And since I assume that there is more than one set of silver necklaces and bracelets, you should probably say 'a silver necklace and bracelet' instead of using 'the'.

You write, 'my friends and me 'usually did something'', but you should write 'my friends and I'. An easy way to remember whether to use 'me' or 'I' in this type of situation is to look at the

sentence without the reference to the other people or person. You would never say, 'me did something', so you can't say, 'my friends and me did something', but you can say 'I did something', so you can say 'my friends and I did something'.

Further down in your story, you refer to 'the melt snow' and 'uncounted holes'. 'Melt' is a verb of which 'melted' is the adjective form, so you should say, 'Melted snow'. Using 'uncounted' implies simply that the holes have yet to be counted, whereas using 'uncountable' would mean that there are too many holes to count them all. I think you mean 'uncountable' here. Finally, at the end of your article you say that you never admit that you are inferior to 'other'. Since there are many others out there in the world, you should write 'others'.

Thanks so much for sharing. I hope you continue to expand your autobiography!

Best,
John



John Gordon, from the United States, is the Vice President of Beijing New Channel School

Friday, August 11

Exhibition

Megumi Shimizu Solo Exhibition

Where: Imagine Gallery, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until September 11
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747, 13910917965

Tibetan Saddles



Featuring antique saddle carpets, saddle blankets and photographs by Chris Buckley of riders and their horses.

Where: Torana Gallery, Shop 8, Kempinski hotel lobby, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10am-9pm, until August 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 5542

Beauty Trap Stratagem



Part two of the 36 Strategies Exhibition.
Where: Creek Art, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until August 12
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9217

Movie

Isabella



Director Pang Ho-Cheung's award winning movie deals with the relationship between a father and his daughter.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside the Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang
When: 8pm, until August 12
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

Saturday, August 12

Exhibition

Journey – Solo Exhibition of Russian artist Yuliya Lanina



Where: NY Arts Beijing Gallery, No 318 Hegezhuang Cun, Shunbai Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until August 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 13693176332

Contemporary silkscreen print group show



Where: Amelie Gallery, 505, No. 5 Building, China Central Place, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until October 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 6530 7048

Music

The Dynasty – live hip pop show

Where: 2 Kolegas, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 3pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8196 4820
Advisor

Outdoor

Yurt stay in Inner Mongolia



Where: Takes travelers to a less touristy Inner Mongolian village. Stay in a Mongolian family's yurt and taste their home cooked lamb.

When: until August 13
Cost:
2,200-7,980 yuan
Tel: 13581682703
(West China)

Sunday, August 13

Exhibition

Ma Lu Solo Exhibition

Where: Xin Beijing Art Gallery, Nanxincang, No 22 Dongsi Shitiao, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-7pm, until September 1
Admission: Free
Tel: 6409 6379, 6409 6380

B52



A group of exhibitions featuring freshly graduated artists: Dai Ruixue, Du Hua, Li Wen, Wang Bo, Wang Lina, Xu Liang, Yu Fengli, Yuan Xiaoguang, Zhang Hanpu.

Where: C5 Art, No 5 Sanlitun Xiwujie, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-7pm, until August 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 6460 3950

Movie

The Visitors



A medieval nobleman and his squire are accidentally transported to contemporary times by a senile sorcerer. He enlists the aid of his descendent to try to find a way to return home, all the while trying to cope with the cultural and technological changes distinguishing his time from ours.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 6pm, until August 16
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor

Horseback Riding in Hebei



Where: Ride with a local horseback riding club near the Kangxi grasslands.

When: Meet at Big Easy at 8:30am.
Cost: 270 yuan
Tel: 8580 5080 (High Club)

Stage in September

Concert

Violin Concert

Who: Vladimir Spivakov and Moscow Virtuosi

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 4

Admission: 80-580 yuan

The Fifth Beijing International Chopin Piano Competition

Who: Young pianists

Where:

Beijing Concert

Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 9-17

Admission: 50-900 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: German Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 29

Admission:
100-800 yuan

Dance

Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker

Who: St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theatre, 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 22-24

Admission:
120-680 yuan

Tap Dance

Who: Ireland's Spirit of the Dance

Where: Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 23-29

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Spartak

Who: Russia Moscow Classical Model Ballet Troupe

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dong-

zhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 27-28

Admission: 120-880 yuan

The New Swan Lake

Who: American Carolina Ballet

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 30

Admission: 100-800 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)